

Constitution for Beresford Road Evangelical Church

Operating from Rear of 51 Beresford Road, Lowestoft. NR32 2NQ.

Aims

To preach God's Word and to advance Christ's kingdom

Membership

Membership is open to anyone who has a living relationship with God through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross; who have turned from rebellion against God have trusted Him for their forgiveness and new life. All Christians wanting to become members will be required to have been baptised.

All members must be able to sign our statement of faith without reservation.

A member may resign their membership by informing the Church Leaders in writing.

The Membership list will be reviewed by the leaders at least once a year. Those who have been persistently absent from the church for a period in excess of six months will be suspended from full membership. If, after a period of a further 12 months, they have not re-joined the meetings regularly, then they will be removed from membership. This rule is to be applied at the discretion of the leaders.

Equal opportunities

We will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, disability, political belief, marital status or age.

Pastor and deacons

The business of the group will be carried out by the Pastor and deacons, who will have been elected at the Annual General meeting. The Pastor and deacons will meet as necessary as and not less than four times a year.

The deacons will consist of at least two members. This will then compose roles as follows:

- Chair – the Pastor will chair both general and deacons meetings
- Secretary, who shall be responsible for the taking of minutes and the distribution of all papers
- Treasurer, who shall be responsible for maintaining accounts

In the event of an officer standing down during the year a replacement will be elected by the next General Meeting of members.

Any deacon not attending a meeting without apology for three months will be contacted to be asked if they wish to resign.

Meetings

1. Annual General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held within fifteen months of the previous AGM. Normally in April.

All members will be notified at least 3 weeks before the date of the meeting, giving venue, date and time.

At the AGM:

- The Treasurer will present the accounts for the previous year
- Any deacons will be elected
- Any proposals given to the Pastor or Secretary at least 7 days in advance of the meeting will be discussed
- Reports on various areas of Church life will be given
- Future plans will be discussed

2. Special General Meetings

The Pastor or Secretary will call a Special General Meeting at the request of the deacons or at least six other members giving written request to the Pastor or Secretary stating the reason for their request.

The meeting will take place within twenty-one days of the request.

All members will be given two weeks 'notice of such a meeting, giving venue, date, time and agenda. Notice may be by telephone, email or post.

3. General meetings

General meetings are open to all members and will be held at least once every 3 months or more often if necessary.

All members will be given two weeks 'notice of such a meeting, giving venue, date, time and agenda. Notice may be by telephone, email or post.

Rules of Procedure for meetings

All questions that arise at any meeting will be discussed openly and the meeting will seek to find general agreement that everyone present can agree to.

If a consensus cannot be reached, a vote will be taken and a decision will be made by a simple majority of members present. If the number of votes cast on each side is equal, the Pastor (or chair of the meeting) shall have the casting vote.

Members are expected to treat sensitive information as confidential.

Finances

An account will be maintained on behalf of the members at a bank agreed by the deacons. Two signatories will be nominated by the deacons (one to be the Treasurer). Any two of these will be able to sign on behalf of the deacons and members.

Records of income and expenditure will be maintained by the Treasurer and a financial statement given to each meeting.

Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution may only be made at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

Any proposal to amend the Constitution must be given to the Secretary in writing. The proposal must then be circulated with the notice of meeting.

Any proposal to amend the Constitution will require a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.

This Constitution was agreed at the Deacons meeting of Beresford Road Evangelical Church on:-

Date...../...../.....

Name and position in group.....

Signed.....

Name and position in group.....

Signed.....

Name and position in group.....

Signed.....

Name and position in group.....

Signed.....

Name and position in group.....

Signed.....