

CONSTITUTION OF AMAZING GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Name

The name of the church is “Amazing Grace Presbyterian Church”, hereinafter referred to as “AGPC”.

1.2 Address

The address of AGPC is 408-B Upper East Coast Road, Singapore 466484 or such other address as may subsequently be decided upon by AGPC and approved by the Registrar of Societies. AGPC shall carry out its activities only in places and premises which have the prior written approval from the relevant authorities, where necessary.

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of AGPC is to preach the Christian doctrine, provide an environment for its members to practice the Christian life and extend God’s Kingdom on earth.

2. STATEMENT OF FAITH

2.1 AGPC believes in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God in Three Persons, to be the only true God.

2.2 AGPC believes in Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world and only Mediator between God and man. All powers and functions in the Church are subject to Christ’s authority. The Church throughout the world and of all ages is His Body, of which AGPC is a member.

2.3 AGPC accepts the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as the true Word of God, inspired and holy, and as the supreme standard of faith and duty. It acknowledges the Apostles’ Creed and the Westminster Confession of Faith as worthily expressing the fundamental and traditional faith commonly held by the Church.

3. PRESBYTERIAN DISTINCTIVE

The Presbyterian Church in Singapore (“**PCS**”) inherited the polity of the Reformed church from John Calvin. It preserves the biblical understanding

that the offices of ministers, elders and deacons manage the affairs of a congregation. The Church is a body of believers. As children of God united in Him, the Church is not hierarchical; instead, it promotes democracy, representation and orderliness in its practices.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE

- 4.1 AGPC shall be a member of PCS and shall affirm its fellowship and unity with PCS and other members of PCS.
- 4.2 In the event that AGPC establishes a separate congregation to serve a different language group and elects a Minister and at least two (2) Elders specifically to serve that congregation, AGPC may on behalf of that congregation apply to the Presbytery with the same language as that used by that congregation to become a member of that Presbytery. The Executive Committee (“**Exco**”) of that Presbytery shall consider the application and submit its recommendation to the Synod Exco who may approve or reject the application. The approval may be subject to such conditions as the Synod Exco may impose. The decision of the Synod Exco shall be final. If the Synod Exco approves the application, AGPC may appoint Representatives from that congregation to attend the general meetings of that Presbytery and the general meetings of the Synod. For clarity, if Synod Exco does not approve the application, such a decision shall not affect AGPC’s membership in the relevant Presbytery and in PCS.
- 4.3 AGPC shall appoint Representatives, who shall comprise the Senior Minister, Associate Ministers, Preachers, Co-Workers and such number of serving Elders and/or Deacons which AGPC is entitled to appoint as set out in the Constitution and by-laws of PCS, to represent it at the general meetings of the relevant Presbytery and the Synod.
- 4.4 AGPC shall pay its prescribed annual contribution to PCS.
- 4.5 AGPC’s membership in PCS may be terminated when:
- (i) AGPC fails or ceases to subscribe to the Statement of Faith or the Presbyterian Distinctive set out in the Constitution of PCS;
 - (ii) AGPC’s membership in PCS is terminated pursuant to the Constitution of PCS;
 - (iii) AGPC is dissolved; or
 - (iv) AGPC and PCS both agree to part ways after best efforts to resolve their differences pursuant to the Constitution of PCS.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF AGPC

5.1 Communicant Members

5.1.1 Members of AGPC (hereafter referred to as “**Communicant Members**”) are those:

- (i) who are sixteen (16) years of age and above and have taken part in a service of baptism;
- (ii) who were baptized when they were infants or young children and are sixteen (16) years of age and above and have taken part in a service of confirmation; or
- (iii) who are registered members of another church, are sixteen (16) years of age and above and have requested a transfer of membership to AGPC and have taken part in a service of transfer of membership.

5.2 Application and Qualifications for Communicant Membership

5.2.1 Anyone who intends to become a Communicant Member of AGPC must submit a written application to AGPC in the prescribed form and, for those who are 18 years of age and below, shall include the consent of their parents or guardians in the written application.

5.2.2 Applicants must openly confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour and demonstrate a clear understanding of the Gospel.

5.2.3 They must be willing to observe the regulations of AGPC and to carry out the responsibilities of Communicant Membership.

5.2.4 They must have attended membership class and had their qualifications examined and approved by the Session and taken part in a service of baptism, confirmation or transfer of membership (as the case may be).

5.3 Responsibilities of Communicant Members

5.3.1 Communicant Members must live a life worthy of their calling as Christians.

5.3.2 They are responsible for supporting AGPC’s normal expenses and any special needs through free-will offerings.

5.3.3 They must abide by the Constitution of AGPC and accept the decisions of AGPC.

5.3.4 Where AGPC finds that any Communicant Member has acted in a manner unbecoming of a Communicant Member or is by any act or omission likely to hinder the witness of AGPC or render it of ill repute, the Communicant Member shall be requested to appear before the Session. The Session shall

have the power to discipline, by admonition, rebuke, suspension and/or revocation of membership, a Communicant Member in accordance with the prescribed procedure set out in the by-laws. The Session should notify the Presbytery in writing of any disciplinary action taken against a Communicant Member.

5.4 Rights of Communicant Members

5.4.1 Communicant Members shall have the right to partake in the Lord's Supper.

5.4.2 Communicant Members shall have the right to attend and speak at congregational meetings. However, only Communicant Members who are 21 years of age and above shall have the right to nominate, vote and be elected to office in AGPC. Each Communicant Member shall have one vote.

5.4.3 Communicant Members who have attended an infant or child baptism class may present their children for infant or child baptism. It is sufficient that only one of the parents is a Communicant Member.

5.5 Termination of Membership

5.5.1 A Communicant Member's membership in AGPC shall be terminated when:

- (i) he transfers his membership to another church;
- (ii) he fails or ceases to subscribe to the Statement of Faith of AGPC or the Presbyterian Distinctive set out in Articles 2 and 3, respectively;
- (iii) his membership is revoked pursuant to Article 5.3.4; or
- (iv) he dies.

5.6 Transfer of Membership

5.6.1 In the event that a Communicant Member intends to transfer membership to another church, provided the Communicant Member is not under discipline or the subject of a disciplinary inquiry, AGPC shall upon the written request of the Communicant Member or the transferee church issue a Letter of Transfer addressed to the Minister or Pastor of the transferee church and duly signed by the Senior Minister of AGPC.

5.6.2 A registered member of another church may by Letter of Transfer issued by the Minister or Pastor of that church to AGPC request a transfer of membership to AGPC. The transferee shall have his qualifications examined and approved by the Session and, if approved, shall thereafter take part in a service of transfer of membership in order to effect a transfer of membership to AGPC.

5.7 **Inactive Members**

- 5.7.1 If a Communicant Member has not been regularly worshipping in AGPC over a period of twelve (12) months and despite efforts of AGPC leaders to contact the Communicant Member or despite encouragement from AGPC leaders, the Communicant Member continues not to regularly worship in AGPC, that Communicant Member shall be classified as an Inactive Member and the Session shall send written notice of such action to him at his last known address.
- 5.7.2 Inactive Members shall not be counted in determining the quorum of a congregational meeting and shall not have the right to speak at congregational meetings, to nominate, vote or stand for election provided always that the Session shall have the discretion to reinstate such Inactive Members when they shall have resumed regular worship in AGPC.

5.8 **Restoration**

Any Communicant Member whose membership has been suspended or revoked pursuant to Article 5.3.4 may be restored by the Session upon evidence of the Communicant Member's repentance and reformation by the Session.

6. **CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS**

- 6.1 The highest authority of AGPC is vested in a general meeting of the Communicant Members.
- 6.2 An Annual Congregational Meeting of AGPC ("**ACM**") shall be held no later than 5 months after the end of the previous financial year. The time and place of the ACM shall be decided by the Session.
- 6.3 At least fourteen (14) days' written notice shall be given of an ACM. Notice of meeting stating the date, time and place of meeting and the agenda of the meeting shall be sent by AGPC to all Communicant Members.
- 6.4 At other times, an Extraordinary Congregational Meeting ("**ECM**") may, when necessary, be called by the Session. The Senior Minister and the Session Clerk shall, at least ten (10) days before the ECM, notify the Communicant Members in writing of the date, time and place of the ECM and the agenda of the ECM.
- 6.5 An ECM may be called at any time at the request in writing of not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total Communicant Members. The Session shall convene the ECM in accordance with Article 6.4 within two (2) months of the date of receipt of such request. If the Session does not within two (2) months of the date of receipt of the written request proceed to convene the ECM, the Communicant Members who requested for the ECM shall convene

the ECM by giving ten (10) days' written notice to the Communicant Members setting forth the date, time and place of the ECM and the agenda of the ECM. A member of the Session shall chair the ECM, but if none of the members of the Session are present at the ECM, then the ECM shall be chaired by one of the Communicant Members who requested for the ECM.

- 6.6 Voting by proxy shall not be allowed at all congregational meetings.
- 6.7 The following matters will be considered at the ACM:
- (i) The previous financial year's accounts and annual report of AGPC;
 - (ii) Where applicable, the election of office-bearers and auditors for the following term.
- 6.8 Any matter which has not been notified to the Communicant Members prior to the meeting may not be added to the agenda during the meeting.
- 6.9 Any Communicant Member who intends to place an item on the agenda of a congregational meeting shall submit his request in writing to the Session at least seven (7) days before the meeting is held and if the Session agrees that it is appropriate to include the item in the agenda, the Session Clerk shall notify the Communicant Members in writing of the change in agenda at least two (2) days before the meeting.
- 6.10 The quorum of a congregational meeting is fifty percent (50%) of the Communicant Members or hundred (100) Communicant Members, whichever is the lesser, except where expressly provided otherwise in this Constitution.
- 6.11 In the event that there is no quorum at the commencement of a congregational meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned for seven (7) days or to such other day and at such other time and place as the Session may decide. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present, those Communicant Members present shall be deemed a quorum and may transact the business for which the meeting was called except that such meeting shall not have the power to decide on matters concerning the purchase, sale or mortgage of property; or the amendment of the Constitution; or the dissolution of AGPC.

7. THE SESSION

7.1 The Session is the highest governing body of AGPC and is responsible for the spiritual and organizational affairs of AGPC. The Session shall have not less than three (3) members and not more than thirty (30) members.

7.2 The Office Bearers of AGPC

7.2.1 The office bearers of AGPC are the members of the Session composed of the Senior Minister, the Associate Ministers (if any) and a minimum of two

(2) Serving Elders. Except where expressly provided otherwise in this Constitution, the term of office of each office bearer is three (3) years.

7.2.2 Unless with the prior approval in writing of the Registrar or an Assistant Registrar of Societies, the majority of the members of the Session shall be Singapore citizens. In addition, the Senior Minister, the Session Clerk, the Treasurer and their deputies shall be Singapore citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents. Foreign diplomats shall not serve as members of the Session.

7.2.3 Any changes to the Session shall be notified to the Registry of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities within two (2) weeks of the change.

7.3 **Senior Minister and Associate Ministers**

7.3.1 The Senior Minister shall represent AGPC in its dealings with outside persons.

7.3.2 The Associate Ministers shall assist the Senior Minister and one of them may deputise for the Senior Minister in his absence.

7.4 **Session Clerk**

7.4.1 The Session shall appoint one of their number to serve as the Session Clerk.

7.4.2 The Session Clerk is responsible for all records, except financial records, of AGPC. He shall ensure that the minutes of all congregational meetings of AGPC, the minutes of all Session meetings and other historical records are properly maintained. He shall maintain an up-to-date Register of Communicant Members at all times.

7.5 **Treasurer**

7.5.1 The Session shall appoint one of their number who has the appropriate financial skills and experience to serve as Treasurer. The Treasurer shall hold office for a term of two (2) years. If the Treasurer has served two (2) consecutive terms, he must retire thereafter for a minimum period of one (1) term.

7.5.2 The Treasurer is responsible for the finances of AGPC and shall maintain proper records of all financial transactions of AGPC. He shall prepare an annual budget for presentation and approval at the ACM.

7.5.3 The Treasurer shall present financial statements of AGPC at the Session meetings. In addition, he shall prepare the financial report at the end of the Financial Year for audit and shall present the audited accounts of AGPC at the ACM.

7.5.4 All cheques and other withdrawals from the accounts of AGPC must be signed by the Treasurer or the Assistant Treasurer and counter-signed by

another member of the Session appointed by the Session in a written resolution.

7.6 Assistant Treasurer

7.6.1 The Session may appoint one of their number who has the appropriate financial skills and experience to serve as the Assistant Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer shall hold office for a term of two (2) years. If the Assistant Treasurer has served two (2) consecutive terms, he must retire thereafter for a minimum period of one (1) term.

7.6.2 The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer and deputise for the Treasurer during his absence.

7.7 Powers and Responsibilities of the Session

7.7.1 The Session shall be responsible for the following:

- (i) Carrying out the decisions of AGPC made in congregational meeting; and
- (ii) Establishing and supervising the ministries of AGPC.

7.7.2 The Session shall have the power to appoint committees to carry out the functions of the Session as it deems necessary.

7.7.3 Subject to the approval of the Communicant Members at a congregational meeting, the Session shall have the powers to borrow or raise funds on behalf of AGPC for the purposes of AGPC and to mortgage or charge its undertakings and property, or any part thereof, whether outright or as security for any debt, liability or obligation of AGPC.

7.7.4 The Session shall be responsible for the spiritual affairs of AGPC, which shall include the following:

- (i) preaching and teaching the Word of God;
- (ii) administering the Sacraments; and
- (iii) pastoral care and spiritual discipline of Communicant Members.

7.8 Meetings of the Session

7.8.1 The Session shall, by a simple majority, appoint the Senior Minister or an Associate Minister or one of the Serving Elders to preside over the meetings of the Session.

7.8.2 The Session must meet at least four (4) times a year to transact business. Seven (7) days' written notice of such meeting must be given to the Session

members. When necessary a special Session meeting may be called by the Senior Minister and the Session Clerk on two (2) days' written notice.

- 7.8.3 The quorum of a meeting of the Session shall be half of the total number of Session members.
- 7.8.4 If a member of the Session has a direct or indirect interest in a transaction or project or other matter to be discussed at a Session meeting, that member shall disclose the nature of his interest before the discussion of the matter begins. That member shall not participate in the discussion nor vote on the matter, and shall also offer to withdraw from the meeting and the Session shall decide if this offer should be accepted.

8. THE ELDERS AND DEACONS COURT (“EDC”)

- 8.1 The EDC shall be composed of the Senior Minister, the Associate Ministers and a minimum of two (2) Serving Elders and two (2) Deacons.
- 8.2 The EDC shall be responsible for the administration of the ministries of AGPC and the administration and management of the property, the funds and the general affairs of AGPC.
- 8.3 The EDC shall, by a simple majority, appoint the Senior Minister or an Associate Minister or one of the Serving Elders to preside over the meetings of the EDC.
- 8.4 The quorum of a meeting of the EDC shall be half of the total number of the EDC members.
- 8.5 If a member of the EDC has a direct or indirect interest in a transaction or project or other matter to be discussed at the EDC meeting, that member shall disclose the nature of his interest before the discussion of the matter begins. That member shall not participate in the discussion nor vote on the matter, and shall also offer to withdraw from the meeting and the EDC shall decide if this offer should be accepted.

9. SENIOR MINISTER, ASSOCIATE MINISTERS, CO-WORKERS AND PREACHERS

9.1 Senior Minister, Interim Senior Minister and Associate Ministers

- 9.1.1 A Minister of PCS who has been invited by AGPC to serve as the Senior Minister or an Associate Minister of AGPC must be ordained or licensed by the relevant Presbytery of PCS or if he was ordained in another denomination or in a country outside of Singapore, has been examined and accepted by PCS to serve as a Minister in accordance with the criteria for appointment and licensing set out in the PCS Constitution and by-laws before he can be called to serve with AGPC.

- 9.1.2 The Session may nominate candidates from among Ministers ordained, licensed or examined and accepted by PCS for election as Senior Minister or Associate Minister of AGPC, in which case the names of the nominee(s) must be notified in writing to the Communicant Members twenty-one (21) days prior to the congregational meeting and included in the notice of congregational meeting.
- 9.1.3 Where AGPC intends to elect or re-elect a Minister of PCS to the office of Senior Minister of AGPC, the Session shall make a written request to the Presbytery Exco to appoint one other Minister and one Elder (not being from AGPC) to attend and supervise the election or re-election,.
- 9.1.4 Where AGPC intends to elect or re-elect a Minister of PCS to the office of Associate Minister, the Session shall make a written request to the Presbytery Exco and, in the case of election, the Presbytery Exco shall appoint one other Minister and one Elder (not being from AGPC) to attend and supervise the election and, in the case of re-election, the Presbytery Exco shall commission the Senior Minister of AGPC to conduct and supervise the re-election.
- 9.1.5 Election of the Senior Minister and Associate Ministers shall be held at a general meeting and decided by ballot.
- 9.1.6 A candidate for the office of Senior Minister or Associate Minister must attain not less than two-thirds of the total votes cast in order to be elected to office.
- 9.1.7 If the candidate is not a Communicant Member of AGPC, he shall, upon being elected to the office of Senior Minister or Associate Minister, be deemed a member of AGPC for the duration of his appointment. For clarity, the candidate need not transfer or terminate his membership with his home church while he serves as the Senior Minister or Associate Minister of AGPC.
- 9.1.8 The term of office of the Senior Minister and an Associate Minister is four (4) years. The terms of engagement shall be agreed between the Senior Minister or the Associate Minister and AGPC and shall be set out in a contract of employment. Subject to Article 9.1.9, the Senior Minister or an Associate Minister may be called to continue as the Senior Minister or Associate Minister, respectively, for subsequent terms of four (4) years each or such other duration as may be agreed with AGPC.
- 9.1.9 Upon reaching the statutory minimum retirement age as prescribed by the Retirement Age Act (Cap. 274A), the Senior Minister or Associate Minister must retire from office. Notwithstanding the foregoing, AGPC may invite the Senior Minister or Associate Minister who has reached the statutory minimum retirement age to continue in that office for such duration as may be agreed.

9.1.10 In the event that the office of Senior Minister is vacant and there is no Associate Minister in AGPC, the Session may invite a Senior Minister or Associate Minister of another Presbyterian Church, with the consent of the other Presbyterian Church and the relevant Presbytery of PCS, to serve as an interim-Senior Minister while the Session seeks to invite a Minister to serve as its Senior Minister.

9.2 **Preachers**

9.2.1 AGPC may invite a Preacher to be inducted to that office in AGPC. The terms of engagement shall be agreed between the Preacher and AGPC and shall be set out in a contract of employment. Upon reaching the statutory minimum retirement age as prescribed by the Retirement Age Act (Cap. 274A), the Preacher must retire from office. Notwithstanding the foregoing, AGPC may invite the Preacher who has reached the statutory minimum retirement age to continue in that office for such duration as may be agreed.

9.2.2 A Preacher who has been invited by AGPC to serve as a Preacher must be licensed by the relevant Presbytery of PCS in accordance with the criteria for appointment and licensing set out in the PCS Constitution and by-laws before he can be invited to serve with AGPC. The Preacher is not a member of the Session but may be invited by the SESSION to attend its meetings as an observer.

9.3 **Co-Workers**

Retired Ministers of PCS and Ministers and Preachers of PCS who are serving in seminaries or para-church organizations, and who are Communicant Members of AGPC, are collectively referred to as “**Co-Workers**”.

9.4 **Practice and Promotion of Biblical Teachings on Sexuality, Sexual Conduct and Marriage.**

9.4.1 The Senior Minister, Associate Ministers and Preachers/Pastors, and any candidate whom AGPC intends to invite, call or appoint to serve as Senior Minister or Associate Minister or Preacher/Pastor, as the case may be, must adhere to, practise and promote the biblical teachings on sexuality, sexual conduct and marriage.

9.4.2 The Senior Minister, Associate Ministers and Preachers/Pastors, together with the Session, shall ensure that all ministry leaders and church staff must adhere to, practise and promote the biblical teachings on sexuality, sexual conduct and marriage.

9.4.3 The Senior Minister, Associate Ministers and Preachers/Pastors, together with the Session, shall exhort their Communicant Members and Adherents to

adhere to and practise the biblical teachings on sexuality, sexual conduct and marriage as faithful witnesses of Christ.

10. ELDERS AND DEACONS

10.1 Functions of Elders and Deacons

10.1.1 The Elders, together with the Senior Minister and the Associate Ministers, are responsible for carrying out the ministry work of AGPC, nurturing the spiritual life of the Communicant Members, correcting their errors and such other matters concerning the edification and improvement of AGPC.

10.1.2 The Deacons shall work with the Senior Minister, the Associate Ministers and the Serving Elders in administering the ministries, the financial affairs and the activities of AGPC, in planning AGPC budget, in preparing ministry and financial reports and in managing all matters concerning ministries, finance and administration of AGPC.

10.2 Election of Elders and Deacons

10.2.1 Elders and Deacons shall be elected at congregational meetings of AGPC.

10.2.2 Subject to Article 10.2.3, Communicant Members may nominate Communicant Members who have been faithfully serving in AGPC and have demonstrated leadership qualities, for election as Elders and Deacons. All nominations must be proposed and seconded by Communicant Members. The list of nominees must be announced to AGPC twenty-one (21) days prior to the ACM and included in the notice of congregational meeting.

10.2.3 Candidates for the office of Elder and Deacon must have been Communicant Members of AGPC for more than three (3) years, must be 21 years of age and above, must be well versed in Christian teaching, and must fulfil all other criteria prescribed by AGPC. In the case of candidates for the office of Elder, the candidate must have served at least one (1) term as a Deacon.

10.2.4 Election of Elders and Deacons shall be held at a general meeting and decided by ballot.

10.2.5 A candidate for the office of Elder must attain not less than two-thirds of the total votes cast in order to be elected to office. A candidate for the office of Deacon may be elected to office by a simple majority of the total votes cast.

10.2.6 The term of office of Elders and Deacons is three (3) years. A Serving Elder or Deacon shall be eligible for re-election for a second consecutive term. If the Serving Elder or Deacon has served two (2) consecutive terms, he must retire thereafter for a minimum period of one (1) term. The Session may waive this rule in special circumstances. Notwithstanding the foregoing restriction, the outgoing Deacons may be nominated for election to the office of Elders.

10.2.7 The title of an Elder is for life. An Elder who is serving a term of office is referred in this Constitution as a “**Serving Elder**”.

11. BRANCH CONGREGATIONS

11.1 Subject to the approval of the Registrar of Societies, AGPC may establish branch congregations in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

11.2 The Session shall be responsible for the spiritual affairs and the administration of the branch congregations.

11.3 A branch congregation that has a Minister and at least two (2) Elders elected by AGPC to serve that congregation may be registered or incorporated as an independent Presbyterian church and an independent member of the PCS. To achieve independent status, the approval of at least two-thirds of the Communicant Members present at a congregational meeting of AGPC must be obtained. The Session shall make a written request to the Presbytery Exco to appoint one other Minister and one Elder (not being from AGPC) to attend the congregational meeting and supervise the proceedings.

12. BY-LAWS

AGPC may enact by-laws not inconsistent with this Constitution for, but not limited to, the following matters:

- (i) to give effect to the provisions of this Constitution;
- (ii) to regulate meetings in AGPC;
- (iii) to regulate the functions and procedures of AGPC;
- (iv) to regulate the proper keeping of the books and the accounts of AGPC;
- (v) to regulate the administration of the activities of AGPC;
- (vi) to provide for the appointment of Church staff and other personnel;
- (vii) to provide for all matters for the proper functioning of AGPC.

13. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

13.1 As a member of PCS and to retain its membership with PCS, AGPC shall notify PCS in writing of any proposed changes to the Constitution and take into consideration any comments that PCS may have regarding the proposed changes.

13.2 AGPC shall not amend the Constitution without the prior approval in writing of the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities. No additions, alterations or deletions shall be made to the Constitution unless the same shall have been previously submitted to and approved by at least two-thirds of the votes of the Communicant Members present at a congregational meeting of AGPC. The quorum of a congregational meeting where any proposed amendment of the Constitution is tabled shall be 50% of the total number of Communicant Members.

14. INTERPRETATION

14.1 In the event of any question or matter arising out of a dispute or difference in meaning of any point in this Constitution or arising out of any point which is not expressly provided for in this Constitution, the Session shall have power to use its own discretion. The decision of the Session shall be final unless it is reversed at a congregational meeting of AGPC.

14.2 In the event of any apparent conflict between the English version of this Constitution and any other translation of it, the meaning as conveyed by the English version shall prevail.

15. TRUSTEES

15.1 If AGPC at any time acquires any immovable property, such property shall be vested in trustees subject to a declaration of trust.

15.2 AGPC shall appoint either a trust corporation or at least three (3) Communicant Members to act as trustees of AGPC. The trustees of AGPC:

- (i) shall be elected by a simple majority vote of Communicant Members present and voting at a congregational meeting;
- (ii) shall not effect any sale or mortgage of property unless it has been instructed by the Session to do so and such instructions to be made after two-thirds of the Communicant Members present at a congregational meeting have voted in favour of the sale or mortgage of the property. The quorum of a congregational meeting where the sale or mortgage of property is tabled shall be 50% of the total number of Communicant Members.

15.3 AGPC may terminate a trustee's appointment :

- (i) if the trustee, being a trust corporation, is wound up or threatened with winding up proceedings;
- (ii) if the trustee is guilty of misconduct of such a kind as to render it undesirable for him to continue as a trustee;

- (iii) if the trustee dies or becomes a lunatic or of unsound mind;
 - (iv) if the trustee is absent from the Republic of Singapore for a period of more than one (1) year;
 - (v) if the trustee becomes bankrupt;
 - (vi) if the trustee ceases to be a member of AGPC; or
 - (vii) if the trustee is incapacitated for any reason.
- 15.4 Written notice of any proposal to remove a trustee from his trusteeship or to appoint a new trustee to fill a vacancy must be given to Communicant Members at least fourteen (14) days before the congregational meeting at which such proposal is tabled. The result of the proposal shall be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.
- 15.5 The address of each immovable property, name of each trustee and any subsequent change to the foregoing must be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

16. AUDIT AND FINANCIAL YEAR

- 16.1 A firm of Certified Public Accountants shall be appointed as Auditors at each ACM for a term of one (1) year and shall be eligible for reappointment.
- 16.2 They:
- (i) will be required to audit each year's accounts and present a report upon them to the ACM; and
 - (ii) may be required by the Session to audit AGPC's accounts for any period within their tenure of office at any date and make a report to the Session.
- 16.3 The financial year shall be from Jan to Dec.

17. PROHIBITIONS

- 17.1 The introduction of gambling, idolatry, homosexual activities, drug taking, vice and such other illicit activities into AGPC is prohibited. All such activities, excluding the promotion or conduct of a private lottery which has been permitted under the Private Lotteries Act (Cap. 250), is forbidden on AGPC's premises.
- 17.2 AGPC shall not accept alternative lifestyles and sexual conduct which are contrary to biblical teaching. In this respect, AGPC, as instructed by

Scriptures, upholds truths and practices, including but not limited to the following:

- (i) that humanity has been created in the image and likeness of God, as male and female, to the exclusion of all others (Genesis 1:26-28);
- (ii) that marriage as instituted by God, is defined clearly and uniquely as a lifelong monogamous and exclusive union between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:15-24; Matthew 19:3-9). As such, no solemnization of marriages of same-sex couples shall be conducted by Ministers of AGPC and no solemnization or celebration of such marriages be held in AGPC's premises;
- (iii) that any form of sexual expression before and outside of marriage is forbidden and is reckoned as sin (1 Corinthians 6:9-20); and
- (iv) that all forms of alternative lifestyles and sexual misconduct dishonour God and should not be condoned. Any form of alternative lifestyles and sexual misconduct practised by a Communicant Member or Adherent shall be counselled by church leaders in accordance with the process set out in Article 5.3.4 of this Constitution and its by-laws.

- 17.3 The funds of AGPC shall not be used to pay the fines of Communicant Members who have been convicted in a court of law.
- 17.4 The income and property of AGPC whensoever derived shall be applied towards the promotion of the purposes of AGPC as set forth in this Constitution and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend or bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to the persons who at any time are or have been members of AGPC or to any of them or to any person claiming through any of them. This restriction shall not apply to the payment of the salaries/bonuses and benefits of the staff of AGPC.
- 17.5 AGPC shall not engage in any trade union activity as defined in any written law relating to trade unions for the time being in force in Singapore.
- 17.6 AGPC shall not indulge in any political activity or allow its funds and/or premises to be used for political purposes.
- 17.7 AGPC shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to its members or not, in the name of AGPC or its office-bearers, Committee or Communicant members unless with the prior approval of the relevant authorities.
- 17.8 AGPC shall not raise funds from the public for whatever purposes without the prior approval in writing of the Assistant Director Operations Licensing Division, Singapore Police Force and other relevant authorities.

18. ADHERENTS, VISITORS AND GUESTS

- 18.1 **“Adherents”** refers to believers who have been regularly worshipping at AGPC but have yet to become Communicant Members of AGPC.
- 18.2 Adherents who are 16 years of age and above and have been baptized in another church may partake in the Lord’s Supper.
- 18.3 Adherents may attend congregational meetings as observers but shall not have the right to participate in congregational meetings nor have the right to nominate, vote or be elected to office in AGPC.
- 18.4 Adherents, visitors and guests may be admitted into the premises of AGPC. All adherents, visitors and guests shall abide by the rules and regulations of AGPC.

19. DISPUTES

- 19.1 All disputes between Communicant Members shall be referred to the Session for counselling, mediation and resolution. The disputing Communicant Members agree to submit to the authority and abide by the decision of the Session.
- 19.2 Where the dispute is between the Session and a Communicant Member, the Session and the Communicant Member shall attempt to amicably resolve the dispute between themselves. If the Session and the Communicant Member are not able to amicably resolve the dispute between themselves, they may agree to refer the dispute to the Executive Committee of the relevant Presbytery of PCS to which AGPC belongs for resolution.
- 19.3 If the Executive Committee of the Presbytery of PCS is of the view that the subject matter of the dispute warrants the dispute being dealt with by the Executive Committee of the Synod of PCS, the Executive Committee of the Presbytery may refer the dispute to the Executive Committee of the Synod of PCS for resolution. The Session and the Communicant Member agree to abide by the decision of the Executive Committee of the Presbytery or, if the dispute is referred to the Executive Committee of the Synod of PCS, the decision of the Executive Committee of the Synod.
- 19.4 While any such dispute is pending a resolution, the parties involved in the dispute shall not refer the matter or any part thereof to the secular courts and shall not disclose, publicize or publish reports on the matter to the public.
- 19.5 An individual involved in the dispute, if holding a position in the body charged with resolving the dispute, shall abstain from deciding the matter, and if it is considered necessary, must withdraw from the meetings.

- 19.6 The decision of the Executive Committee of the Presbytery, in the case of a matter referred to it pursuant to Article 19.2, and the decision of the Executive Committee of the Synod, in the case of a matter referred to it pursuant to Article 19.3, shall be final.

20. CESSATION OF CHARITY STATUS

- 20.1 In the event that AGPC ceases to be a registered charity under the Charities Act, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of AGPC shall be fully discharged, and the remaining funds will be contributed to charitable organizations with similar objectives in Singapore which are registered under the Charities Act as the members of AGPC may determine at the General Meeting, unless otherwise allowed by the Commissioner of Charities.

21. DISSOLUTION

- 21.1 AGPC may not be dissolved, except with the consent of not less than two-thirds of the total Communicant Members present at a congregational meeting convened for this purpose. The quorum of a congregational meeting where the dissolution of AGPC is tabled shall be 50% of the total number of Communicant Members.
- 21.2 In the event of AGPC being dissolved as provided above, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of AGPC shall be fully discharged, and all its remaining properties, funds, bank deposits, and cash shall be donated to charitable organizations with similar objectives in Singapore which are registered under the Charities Act (Cap. 37) as the Communicant Members may determine at a congregational meeting.
- 21.3 A Certificate of Dissolution shall be given to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities within seven (7) days of the dissolution.

22. DEFINITIONS

- 22.1 In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed against it:

“Adherents” means believers who regularly worship at AGPC but have yet to become Communicant Members of AGPC;

“Communicant Member” means a person who is 16 years and above and who has been accepted as a Communicant Member of AGPC in accordance with Articles 5.1.1 and 5.2;

“Co-Workers” means Communicant Members who are retired Ministers and Ministers and Preachers serving in seminaries or para-church organizations;

“Elders and Deacons Court” or **“EDC”** means a court composed of the Senior Minister, the Associate Ministers and a minimum of two (2) Serving Elders and two (2) Deacons responsible for the administration of the ministries of AGPC and the administration and management of the property, the funds and the general affairs of AGPC;

“Financial Year” means the period from Jan to Dec.

“Minister” means a Preacher who has been ordained or licensed as a Minister by the relevant Presbytery of PCS, or a Minister who was ordained in another country and has been examined and accepted by PCS to serve as a Minister;

“PCS” means The Presbyterian Church in Singapore;

“Preacher” means a graduate of a recognized theological college who has been licensed as a Preacher by the relevant Presbytery of PCS;

“Presbytery” means a court composed of the Representatives of a group of Presbyterian Churches;

“Representatives” means those persons described in Article 4.3 appointed by AGPC to represent it at the general meetings of the Presbytery and the Synod;

“Session” means the highest governing body of AGPC composed of the Senior Minister, the Associate Ministers and a minimum of two (2) Serving Elders;

“Synod” means the highest assembly of PCS attended by all the Representatives of the members of PCS.

- 22.2 Words importing the singular shall include the plural, words importing the one gender shall include the other gender, and words importing a person shall include a firm and corporation and vice-versa.