



Jersey Baptist Church

CONSTITUTION AND RULES



Jersey Baptist Church

1 - NAME OF CHURCH

The Church shall be known as JERSEY BAPTIST CHURCH, VAUXHALL STREET, ST HELIER, JERSEY. The buildings at Vauxhall, St Helier together with the manse are held on trust for the membership by deed dated 23rd July 1887.

2 - BASIS OF FAITH

We accept the revelation of the triune God given in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and confess the historic faith of the Gospel therein set forth. We here assert the doctrines which we regard as crucial to the understanding of the faith, and which should issue in mutual love, practical Christian service and evangelistic concern.

The sovereignty and grace of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in creation, providence, revelation, redemption and final judgment.

Deuteronomy 6: 4;
Matthew 28: 19;
2 Corinthians 13: 14;
Revelation 4: 11;
2 Corinthians 4: 4 - 6;
Ephesians 2: 4 - 6;
James 4: 12.

The Lord Jesus Christ as true God and true Man; His deity, incarnation, virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death and bodily resurrection.

John 1: 1 - 3, 14;
1 Timothy 2: 5;
Isaiah 9: 6 - 7;
Acts 10: 34 - 43.

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

2 Timothy 3: 16 - 17;
2 Peter 1: 20 - 21.



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The universal sinfulness and guilt of fallen man, making him subject to God's wrath and condemnation.

Romans 3: 9 - 20,
Romans 5: 12;
Ephesians 2: 1 - 3.

The personality of Satan and his opposition to God and to God's purposes.

John 8: 44 - 45;
1 John 3: 8;
1 Peter 5: 8 - 9.

The substitutionary sacrifice of the incarnate Son of God as the sole and all sufficient ground of redemption from the guilt and power of sin, and from its eternal consequences.

Romans 5: 6 - 8;
2 Corinthians 5: 21;
1 Peter 3: 18;
Colossians 2: 13 - 15.

The justification of the sinner solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ crucified and risen from the dead.

Ephesians 2: 8 -9;
Romans 4: 1 - 5, 25.

The illuminating, regenerating, indwelling and sanctifying work of God the Holy Spirit.

John 3: 5;
Romans 8: 13 -16;
Galatians 5: 16 - 26.



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The priesthood of all believers, who form the universal Church, the Body of which Christ is the Head, and which is committed by His command to the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world.

1 Peter 2: 4 - 5;
Ephesians 1: 22 - 23;
Ephesians 4: 15 -16;
1 Corinthians 12.

The resurrection of the just and the unjust, the one to eternal life and the other to eternal punishment.

Daniel 12: 2;
John 5: 28 - 30;
Matthew 25: 46.

The expectation of the personal, visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ in power and glory.

Acts 1: 11;
Mark 13: 26.

3 - MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Membership of the church shall be open to all who confess repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who subscribe to the above Basis of Faith and to these Rules, whose lives bear evidence of their Christian profession and who have been baptised as believers by immersion.
- (b) Applicants for membership shall be visited by two church members appointed by the Elders. Visitors shall report at a church meeting as to the personal faith and suitability for membership of the candidates whose acceptance shall be determined by receiving for favourable vote of two thirds of the members present and voting at the meeting. It shall be required that all applicants shall have been attending the church for a period of at least three months and shall have attained the age of 16 years.
- (c) In the case of any person applying for membership the Elders shall decide in what circumstances, including physical infirmity, an exception to the baptismal practice shall be made.



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- (d) Members are expected loyally to attend the church worship services and meetings for prayer, Bible study and church business, to contribute towards its support, to take part in church activities and with God's help to lead lives regulated by the teaching of scripture and inspired by the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- (e) Any member who has clearly lapsed and has failed to respond to pastoral approaches may be placed by the Elders on the Associate Membership Roll and the church notified of such action, together with the member, by the Church Secretary. If after a year, restoration has taken place, the individual may, with the agreement of the Elders be removed from the Associate Membership Roll, the church shall be notified together with the member, by the Church Secretary and the individual shall return to membership.
- (f) A member shall recognise and accept the necessity for discipline within the church, which is to be exercised by the whole church following a submission by the Elders. The ultimate purpose of all discipline is the reconciliation and restoration of the offender.

4 - THE PASTOR

- (a) The Pastor in accordance with the terms of the Trust Deed shall be of the "persuasion religieuse dite 'Baptiste'" (Baptist persuasion), holding the above Basis of Faith and subscribing to these Rules. He shall have been baptised by immersion on a confession of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and shall maintain the requirements in the Trust Deed that "*l'ordonnance du Baptême sera administré dans ladite chapelle seulement aux personnes qui feront profession de foi personnelle et volontaire au Seigneur Jesus Christ et que le moyen d'administrer ladite ordonnance sera toujours par immersion suivant aux règles et á la pratique des Baptistes*" (the ordinance of baptism shall be administered in the church solely to persons who have personally and voluntarily professed faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and that the method of administration of the ordinance shall always be by immersion following Baptist rules and practices).
- (b) The Pastor shall be elected at a special church meeting and must obtain three quarters of the votes of the members present and voting.
- (c) The Pastor's terms and conditions of service shall be set out in a contract with him and shall, wherever appropriate, be approved by the church.



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- (d) The Pastor on appointment shall be a member of the church and shall also be an Elder of the church but shall not be subject to periodic election in accordance with the rules.

5 - RULES

- (a) Elders shall be qualified in accordance with, and shall exercise the functions set out in the New Testament in respect of that office.
- (b) Elders shall have been members for at least 12 months. They shall be elected at an annual church meeting or at a special church meeting. The term of office shall be for a period of three years save where an Elder is elected other than at an annual general meeting, he shall hold office until the fourth annual general meeting following his appointment. An elder shall be eligible for re-election. Nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Church Secretary not less than fifteen days before the meeting at which the election shall take place. The consent of the nominee must first be obtained. The Church Secretary shall display the list of nominations in the entrance lobby of the church two Sundays prior to the church meeting.
- (c) The election of the Elders shall be by ballot and only those nominees who receive the support of two thirds of those voting either in person or, by arrangement on application to the Secretary by ballot form submitted earlier if unable to attend the meeting, shall be elected.
- (d) Elders may be removed from office by resolution of the church members.
- (e) At meetings of Elders the quorum shall be one half of their total number.

6 - SECRETARY, TREASURER AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

- (a) The Church Secretary, the Church Treasurer and the leaders of Action Groups shall be appointed by the church after nomination by the Elders.
- (b) Only church members may be nominated and only those who receive the support of two-thirds of those voting shall be appointed.



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- (c) Such appointments to these ministries shall be confirmed at each annual general meeting and may be terminated by resolution of the church members.
- (d) All those appointed in this way must be qualified for, and shall exercise their functions in accordance with, the New Testament office of deacon.
- (e) Leaders of other ministries in the church shall be appointed by the Elders and such appointments shall be confirmed by a church meeting.
- (f) The Elders may appoint one of their number to be a link Elder within each ministry in the church which does not have an Elder as its leader.
- (g) The church may, by resolution, approve the engagement, on a remunerated basis, of such other persons as it may from time to time decide to undertake any particular ministry in the church. Such persons may, whether on engagement or later, be elected or appointed in accordance with Rules 4 or 5. The terms and conditions of service shall be set out in a contract with each person and shall, wherever appropriate, be approved by the church.

7 - CHURCH MEETINGS

- (a) Church members shall normally meet bi-monthly for Christian fellowship and for the transaction of the business of the church. The meeting shall be properly constituted only when it has been announced in the church on the previous Sunday.
- (b) An elder shall chair all church meetings.
- (c) The decision of a church meeting taken in accordance with the Constitution and Rules shall be final in any matter.
- (d) Matters of a confidential nature (to which the Chairman will draw attention) should not be a matter for general knowledge and discussion outside the church meeting.
- (e) The Chairman shall not have a second or casting vote.
- (f) Wherever a conflict of interest arises or may arise, church members are expected to report such conflict of interest to the chairman of the meeting or to the elders in advance of the meeting. Members with such a conflict of interest shall, as may be appropriate to the circumstances, leave the meeting whilst the matter is being discussed, or not speak on the matter, or not vote on the matter.



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8 - SPECIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

A Special Church Meeting may be called by the Elders or upon the written requisition of not less than one quarter of the church members, such requisition to state the reason the meeting is required. Notice of such meetings shall be given at both services on the two preceding Sundays. Members shall be notified of the nature of the business to be transacted.

9 - ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

There shall be an Annual Church Meeting for the purposes of the election of Elders, the confirmation of appointments and the presentation of financial and other reports. All members shall be notified in writing four weeks prior to the meeting.

10 - QUORUM

The presence of one quarter of the membership at a properly convened meeting shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of making valid decisions at the meeting.

11 - RESOLUTIONS

- (a) Except where otherwise specified in these rules resolutions an ordinary church meeting shall be carried by a simple majority of the members present and voting.
- (b) Resolutions at a special church meeting, shall require a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.
- (c) A resolution passed at a meeting may be rescinded only by giving notice at a subsequent meeting of the intention to propose a rescindment at a later meeting.
- (d) Individuals who are on the Associate Membership Roll shall not be eligible to attend or vote.



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12- GENERAL

- (a) No organisation of any kind shall be formed in connection with the church without the prior sanction of the Elders or the church meeting.
- (b) All meetings held on the church premises shall be only with the permission of the Elders and upon such conditions as they may decide.
- (c) All true believers in our Lord Jesus Christ shall be welcome at the Lord's Table.
- (d) Every member shall be given a copy of the Constitution and Rules.

13 - ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES

The Constitution and Rules may be altered only at a special church meeting called for that purpose.

(Adopted 24 November 1999 - Amended 25 September 2002)