

# **ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

## **OF**

### **HARVEST CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

#### **Article I Name**

The name of this Church shall be Harvest Chinese Christian Church.

#### **Article II Purpose**

The purpose of our existence as a Church shall be to praise and glorify God by: (1) the public worship of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; (2) the preaching of the Gospel throughout the world to the lost: and (3) The edification of the saints through the Word or God.

Our church is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, education, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as charity organizations.

#### **Article III Statement of Faith**

We believe:

- I. The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of man, and the authority for Christian faith and life. (Psalm 119:89; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; Rev. 22:18-19)
2. In one God, who is the Creator of man and all things, absolutely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Ger. 1:1; Deut. 6:40; Isa.44:6; Matt. 28:19; Cor. 13:14)
3. That Jesus Christ is both true God and true man, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He was crucified for our iniquities, was buried, on the third day arose bodily from the dead, and ascended into heaven He is now our High Priest and Advocate at the right hand of God. (Matt. 1:18, 22-23; John 1:1-14; Rom 1:2-4; I Cor. 15:1-4; Heb. 7: 22-25, 8:1; I John 2:11)
4. That the Holy Spirit is equal in substance and glory with God the Father and the Son. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict man,

regenerate sinners, indwell, guide and empower believers for godly living and service. (John 14:16, 26; 16:7-14; Rom. 8:9-16, 26-27; 1 John 2:27)

5. That man was created in the image of God, but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and can obtain salvation and spiritual life only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit. (Gen. 1:27; John 3:5, 7; Rom, 1:18, 3:23, 5:12, 18-19)

6. That salvation is by grace alone, through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Those who thus receive Jesus Christ by faith have their sins forgiven, are born of the Holy Spirit, become children of God, and are made a new creation in Christ. (John 1:12-13, 3:5-8; Rom 3:25; I Cor. 15:3-4; II Cor. 5:17, 20; Eph.1:7, 2:7-8; Heb.9:14; I John 1:9)

7. That the local church is under the Headship of Jesus Christ and is to be guided by the Holy Spirit based on the Scriptures for the purpose of the glory of God. (I Cor.11:3, 12:4-6; Col. 1:18)

8. That water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age as testimonies before God and man. (Matt. 28:18-20; Rom.6: 14; I Cor.11:23-26)

9. That Christian living includes Christian service, the winning of souls around us, and the preaching of the Gospel unto the uttermost parts of the world. (Matt.28:18-20; John 14:12-14; Acts 1:8, 5:32; I Cor. 12:7; Eph.3:20, 6:18-19)

#### **Article IV Membership**

##### **Section 1.** Procedure and Qualification for Membership

Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior, giving evidence of a changed life, having been baptized, accepting the Church's Statement of Faith (Article III), and agreeing to its Bylaws, upon approval by the elders, shall be received into Church membership.

##### **Section 2.** Responsibilities of Membership

Each member shall strive to honor and to walk in the Lord. Each member who has reached the age of eighteen shall have the responsibility to exercise one vote at any congregational meeting. A member may also hold any office to which the member is elected. However, a member must have demonstrated faithfulness for a period of one year in order to serve on the Board of Elders and six months to serve on the Board of Deacons.

##### **Section 3.** Discipline of Membership (Matt 18:15-20; Gal.6: 1-2)

Should any member of the church become an offense by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, the Board of Elders may reprimand, restrict membership privileges, or remove the person from membership after the examination.

#### **Section 4.** Termination of Membership

Absence from the regular ministries of the Church for six months without bona fide reason shall be cause for removal of membership.

#### **Section 5.** Readmission to Membership

Any former member of this Church may be readmitted to membership in the same manner as any other non-member.

### **Article V Oversight of the Church**

#### **Section 1.** Introduction

This Church acknowledges The Lord Jesus Christ as its only Head, and accepts the Holy Scriptures as its only infallible guide in matters of faith, church order, and discipline.

#### **Section 2.** The Board of Elders

##### **Section 2.1.** Duties and Responsibilities

The Elders are responsible to guard the purity of the Word of G4 to shepherd the flock and to oversee the ministries of the Church, to appoint Deacons, and to create special committees as deemed necessary.

##### **Section 2.2.** Composition

The Board of Elders shall be composed of all current Elders and full time minister(s). The Board of Elders shall have not less than two members. For the initial stage of at least one year and at most two years of the Church, the Board of Elders shall not exist and the function and the responsibility of the Board of Elders shall be carried out by the initial Board of Trustees. If the Board of Elders cannot be formed within the initial two years of the Church, the Board of Deacons shall be elected to carry out the function and responsibility of the Board of Elders. The Nomination and election process of Elders shall be used.

##### **Section 2.3.** Qualifications of Elders

Elders shall be selected on the basis of their qualifications for service (I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9) as overseers.

#### Section 2.4. Tenure of Office

The members of the Board of Elders shall be nominated by the nominating committee and confirmed by the voting members of the Church at the annual meeting.

#### Section 2.5. Termination of Office

If any member of the Board of Elders is charged with accusation (I Tim. 5:19-20) that would disqualify from service, a committee shall be created to make a thorough and prayerful investigation and submit its report with recommendations to the Board of Elders. Dismissal of any Board of Elders member must be passed by unanimous vote of the Board of Elders excluding said member, and confirmed by the voting members in a congregational meeting.

#### Section 2.6. The Trustees

The Board of Elders shall appoint among its membership the Trustees: a chairman, a vice chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer. Such appointment shall be made annually for a period of one year. For the initial stage of at least one year and at most two years of the Church, the Trustees shall form from its membership and/or appoint from the congregation a Board of Coworkers to serve the Church's spiritual and administrative affairs. In this initial stage, the Trustees of the Church do not have the status of Elders.

##### Section 2.6.1. Chairman

The chairman shall preside at all business meetings of the Board of Elders and the congregation meetings. The Chairman is responsible for overseeing the business conducted by the Board of Elders and representing the Church in all legal affairs. (I Tim. 5:17)

Amendment: According to Singapore law, church leaders paid by this church cannot take the position of chairman of the Board of Trustees. In such case, a current elder who is not paid by the church can take the position.

##### Section 2.6.2. Vice Chairman

The Vice-Chairman shall serve as an assistant to the Chairman,

##### Section 2.6.3. Secretary

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a proper record of all meetings of the congregation and of the Board of Elders, to conduct the correspondence and to keep custody of all papers and documents of the Church, except those pertaining to financial matters.

Section 2.6.4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible to oversee and to keep custody of the financial records to make an annual report to the congregation.

**Section 3.** Full-Time Ministers

When the time arises that the Church needs full time paid minister(s) and/or associated minister(s) to carry out the Church's ministries, the Board of Elders shall create a search committee. A candidate shall have the qualifications of an elder and shall be selected by the unanimous agreement of the committee, confirmed by the Board of Elders, and then presented to the congregation for final confirmation by its voting members. If the minister is confirmed within the two years of the initial stage of the Church, he will become an Elder to form the Board of Elders after the initial stage. If the minister is confirmed after the initial stage, he will join the existing Board of Elders. The termination principle for an Elder is also applied to this office.

**Section 4.** The Board of Deacons

Section 4.1. Duties and Responsibilities

The Board of Deacons is to serve the Church's administrative affairs and to assist the Board of Elders to carry out the Church's ministries.

Section 4.2. Qualifications

Deacons shall be selected on the basis of their qualifications for service (I Timothy 3:8-13).

Section 4.3. Tenure of Office

Deacons shall be nominated by the nominating committee and confirmed by the Board of Elders for a period of two years.

Section 4.4. Termination of Office

If any member of the Deacons is charged with accusation that would disqualify from service, a committee shall be created by the Board of Elders to make a thorough and

prayerful investigation and submit its report with recommendations to the Board of Elders, which shall take final action.

Section 4.5. Board Vacancies

Should there be a vacancy on the Board of Deacons, such vacancy may be filled by appointment by the Board of Elders.

**Article VI Congregational Meetings**

Section 1. Announcement

A congregational meeting can only be called by the Board of Elders, from the pulpit on two consecutive Sundays with a notice posted on the Church bulletin board. The meeting will not be convened less than 10 days from the first announcement from the pulpit.

Section 2. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held on the 4th Sunday of October or can be adjusted by the Board of Elders as appropriate.

Section 3. Special Business Meetings

Special business meetings may be called at any time by the Board of Elders, or upon the written request of twenty percent of the Church voting members to the Board of Elders and with its approval.

Section 4. Quorum

A quorum in all congregational meetings shall consist of at least twenty percent of the members of the Church who are eligible to vote.

Section 5. Qualification for Voting

To be eligible to vote at any business meeting a member must be eighteen years of age or older.

**Article VII Committees**

Section 1. Nominating Committee

Each year a nominating committee shall be appointed by the Board of Elders. This committee shall consist of five members eligible to vote. Those five will consist of three Elders and two members from the congregation appointed by the Board of Elders. If there are only two members on the Board of Elders, this committee will consist of both Elders and one member from the congregation appointed by the Board of Elders. The members appointed to the nominating Committee shall not be eligible for election to the Board of Elders that ensuring year.

#### Section 1.2. Duty

It shall be the duty of the nominating committee to select candidates for upcoming vacancies on the Board of Deacons.

#### Section 1.3 Submission of Nominations

The nominations of the committee shall be submitted to the Board of Elders at least four weeks before the annual meeting of the Church. At least three weeks before the annual congregational meeting the Board of Elders shall present the Elder candidates to the congregation, who shall be given two weeks to show cause why any of the Elder candidates would not be qualified to serve.

#### Section 2. Other Committees

Standing or ad hoc committees will be appointed as deemed necessary by the Board of Elders.

### **Article VIII Ordinances**

#### Section 1 Baptism

Baptism shall be administered only upon the recommendation of the Board of Elders after they have examined the candidate. The mode shall be by immersion unless there is some physical condition which does not allow immersion.

#### Section 2. Lord's Table

The Lord's Table shall be administered as the Board of Elders shall determine.

### **Article IX Amendments and Revisions**

#### Section 1. Notification of proposed Amendments

The bylaws and the statement of faith may be changed at a meeting of the congregation. The amendment must be first confirmed by the Board of Elders before it is presented to the congregation for final confirmation. Such announcements shall be made from the pulpit on two consecutive Sundays preceding said congregational meeting. The proposed amendments shall be posted on the Church bulletin board for at least ten days prior to the business meeting at which they are to be voted upon.

#### Section 2. Requirements

The confirmation of the proposed amendment to the bylaws shall require the affirmative vote of a least three-fourths (3/4) of the members present at the meeting at which there is a quorum.

### **Article X Dissolution of the Church**

#### Section 1. Requirements for Dissolution

The dissolution of this Church must be first confirmed by the Board of Elders before it is presented to the congregation for final confirmation. The Church may be dissolved by a ninety percent positive vote of the members eligible to vote.

#### Section 2. Disposal of the Church Property

In case of the dissolution, all church property and proceeds therefrom shall be given without cost to an evangelical, tax-exempt religious organization. The recipient organization shall be recommended by the Board of Elders and approved by a three-quarters positive vote of the members eligible to vote. In any event, dissolution of the church shall comply with the terms set forth in the following paragraph.

Upon the dissolution, church assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes, or shall be distributed to the government, for public purposes. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court in which the principal office of the church is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.