

Constitution of Seagate Evangelical Church Troon

(Seagate Church – Governing Principles and Practices)

Introduction

The congregation of Seagate Evangelical Church traces its roots back to the late 19th century, to a group of Christians meeting at 5 Academy Street, Troon. In 1899 this group, which was part of the growing Christian Brethren movement, purchased property in West Portland Street Troon to use as a place of worship. Once known as Bethany Hall it became Seagate Evangelical Church in 1991.

The assets of the Church, all of its property and finances, are held and administered by the Seagate Trust, constituted by Deed of Trust dated 30/9/2013 and registered as a charity, Charity No SC018710.

Beliefs

The Church holds and teaches the following doctrines: -

1. The one true God who lives eternally in three persons—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
3. The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God—fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
4. The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement.
5. The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ—born of the virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.
6. The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.
7. The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruits of our resurrection; his ascension to the Father, and his reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.
8. The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.
9. The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.
10. The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers—given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.
11. The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

Practices

The Church observes the following ordinances: -

1. Baptism by immersion in water of believers on their personal confession of faith in Christ.
2. Remembering the Lord Jesus by participating in Communion together, welcoming all who profess to have faith in the Lord Jesus and who seek to live according to His teachings.

Elders

The Elders are responsible for the spiritual leadership and pastoral care of the congregation; they set out the vision of the Church, determine its organisational structure, and identify and approve suitable candidates for particular ministries within the Church.

The Elders have the following powers: -

1. To appoint new Elders who should be those who adhere to the beliefs and practices of the Church, who seek to live a godly life and who would be considered by the existing Elders to fulfil the attributes of Eldership commended in the New Testament letters.
2. To approve or reject applications for Church membership.
3. To remove from Church membership those who should not be considered members, whether by their absence from regular involvement in the life of the congregation for reasons other than age or infirmity, by professing unsound doctrine or unrepentant moral failure.
4. To prevent and debar, for reasons considered appropriate by the Elders, any individual, whether a member of the Church or not, from attending Church activities or participating in its ordinances or teaching.

The Trustees of Seagate are responsible for business matters encompassing:

1. Ensuring compliance with the terms of the Church Trust Deed
2. Ensuring compliance with current OSCR guidance for charities
3. Managing legal, financial and property matters including health & safety, child protection, & insurance
4. Operating a duty of care towards church employees
5. Providing practical support to the elders as required

New Trustees are appointed by a resolution of not less than half of the existing Trustees, following
Nomination by the trustees and ratification by a circulated ballot of church members.

The Trustees and Elders also meet together at least twice per annum to conduct business relating to general church matters.

Membership

All who profess to have faith in the Lord Jesus, seek to live according to His teachings, and adhere to the beliefs of the Church, whether or not they have been baptised by immersion, are eligible to be members of the Church subject to the approval of the Elders.

Members are expected to: -

1. Show evidence of Christian character.
2. Maintain the spirit of Christian love and unity.
3. Use their gifts in the service of Jesus Christ and His Church.
4. Play their part in furthering the mission of the Church.
5. Attend regularly at public worship, including Communion.
6. Contribute systematically to the Church's finances as the Lord prospers them.
7. Treat matters private to the Church as strictly confidential.
8. Respect the authority of the Elders in all matters relating to the life, work and witness of the Church, including matters of Church discipline.

Church membership offers the following: -

1. The benefits of belonging to a local fellowship of Christians, receiving Communion, pastoral care and teaching, and being given opportunities for service.
2. Attendance and participation in the Annual Church Review, at which a financial statement of the Seagate Trust and reports of its activities are presented, and business remitted by the Elders dealt with.
3. Attendance at Special Church Business Meetings called by the Elders when the need arises and given two Sunday's prior intimation.
4. The opportunity to introduce new business to the Annual Church Review or to Special Church Business Meetings having given one week's previous notice, in writing, to the Elders.
5. Consultation with the Elders on important matters affecting the Church, and the right to vote when the Elders determine that a matter should be put to the ballot.



A Business Meeting of the Church members requires a quorum of one third of the Church membership.

Amendments

This Constitution, or the name of the Church, may be altered at a Church Meeting called for the purpose by special intimation on two preceding Sundays and attended by at least two thirds of the Church membership. Any amendment to the Constitution or the name of the Church will require the approval of at least three-quarters of those attending such a meeting.

Revised September 2013