

Constitution

1. This Constitution was adopted on 3rd March 2010

The Church and its property will be administered and managed in accordance with the provisions in this Constitution. A copy of this Constitution shall be given to each member. Applicants for membership shall be made fully aware of its content before acceptance into membership.

2. Name

The Church is to be called Plains Evangelical Church ('the Church').

3. Object of the church

The Church's objects are the advancement of the Christian faith primarily in Plains and also throughout Scotland, and the rest of the World by all means consistent with the teachings of the Christian Bible, including worship, ministry, mission, prayer, witness, education, community service, and the support of agencies and individuals and other charitable organisations involved in Christian missionary work and the relief of poverty or other social needs. This is expressed through the seven key objectives:

1) *To glorify God through the preaching of His word*
2) *To glorify God through making Christ known in every household in the village and seeing people come to faith in Him.*
3) *To glorify God through identifying the needs in our community and seeking to meet those needs.*
4) *To glorify God through promoting spiritual growth and discipleship in all our lives.*
5) *To glorify God through loving, caring and supporting each other and those in the community.*
6) *To glorify God through identifying and enabling individual gifting and equipping His people to serve Him in the world.*
7) *To glorify God through being a welcoming, open and accessible church.*

4. Members

a) The management of the church will be the responsibility of the Elders.

b) The Elders will be assisted by The Deacons who will discharge the biblical role of Deacon by serving in specific practical areas.

c) A membership role will be kept of all who are admitted to membership.

d) The members of the Church shall be such as profess faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and have been baptised as believers into the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The mode of baptism practised by the Church shall be that of immersion on the understanding that in special circumstances the Church Meeting may agree to make an exception. All applicants for membership will be accepted only upon satisfying the Elders as to their faith in Christ.

e) Notwithstanding 4 d) above, the Church recognises that there are alternative views on the issue of baptism and, where an applicant for membership holds a principled alternative view to believer's baptism, such an applicant may be admitted to membership at the discretion of the Elders.

f) By joining the Church, members shall come under the following obligations:

- *to attend regularly at public worship, including the Ordinance of the Lord's Supper which shall be observed by the Church each Lord's Day or, at least twice a month on the Lord's Day;*
- *to contribute systematically to the Church's finances as the Lord has prospered them;*
- *to use their gifts in the service of Christ and His Church;*
- *to maintain the spirit of Christian love and unity;*
- *to show evidence of their Christian character in all things;*
- *to share in the fulfilment of the Lord's Commission in Matthew Ch 28, vs 19 & 20*

g) Should members fail to fulfil their obligations over an extended period they shall be visited by two elders of the church with a view to reviewing their membership. If the situation remains unchanged for a period of 3 months the eldership may remove such persons from the church's membership

h) In cases of private offences between members of the Church, the rule prescribed by Christ in Matthew Ch 18, vs 15 – 17 shall be faithfully observed. In cases of open backsliding, glaring inconsistency or grave doctrinal error, the Elders shall exercise discipline according to the Scriptures. Where there are serious difficulties involving the Pastor and/or the Church leaders, then spiritual help and guidance should be sought from The FIEC or appropriate alternative organisation.

i) All matters private to the Church shall be treated by members as strictly confidential.

5. Office Bearers and Trustees

a. The Office-Bearers of the Church shall be the Pastor, Elders, & Deacons. The Trustees shall be the Elders & Two Deacons, who will perform the role of treasurer and secretary. When the term 'Trustee' is mentioned in the constitution it refers to the Pastor, Elders and Deacons responsibly for the secretariat and treasury functions. When the term 'Elders' is used this will refer to any serving Pastor together with the Elders.

b. In the event of the Pastor being unable to fulfil his responsibilities, the Elders shall be responsible for arranging pulpit ministry and the supply of the ordinances.

c. In the event of a pastoral vacancy, an Interim Moderator shall be appointed by the Church. The members shall also appoint a Vacancy Committee. A call to the pastorate of the Church shall only be issued if at least three quarters of members voting in a ballot are in favour of the candidate.

d.

i. The minimum number of Church Trustees will be three.

ii. In the event of a minimum of three trustees not being established (made up of the elders, treasurer and secretary) a suitable 'alternative trustee' will be put forward by the remaining trustees to the church membership for affirmation. A simple majority affirmation will be required, along with re-election at every AGM.

6. Procedure for the election of Office Bearers

a. The Elders will bring men before the membership as potential Elders at which point the membership will decide their suitability by means of a paper ballot. All potential elders will be in full agreement with the declaration of faith. Elders will require a majority of at least two-thirds for election.

b. In exceptional circumstances, the rules for eldership allow provision for the Elders to co-opt on to the Eldership any man that they deem appropriate. It is a specific condition however; that the said man must stand for election as an Elder within nine months of taking on this role.

c. In is understood that, notwithstanding the rules for election of Elders, any person so elected is not elected for any fixed term.

d. Deacons will be appointed by the Elders with the exception of the Deacons responsible for performing the functions of Secretary and Treasurer who will be elected annually and require a simple majority for election.

7. Annual General Meeting

Church AGM meetings shall be held annually, with the Pastor or Elder presiding. Should there be no Elders or Pastor holding office, it will be competent for the members present at the meeting to elect an alternative Chair.

The Annual General Meeting of the Church will be held in May of each year, at which the financial statements will be presented and any other competent business conducted and considered by the members.

a. Prior to the Annual General Meeting, the Church accounts - including details of salaries or other remuneration, allowances paid to the Church's staff and of expenses reimbursed to such staff and to other members of the Church - shall be independently examined and approved by suitably qualified persons in accordance with the requirements of current legislation.

b. Business at Church Meetings shall include:

- a statement of the Church's finances, including presentation to the AGM of full accounts, duly checked by an independent examiner in accordance with the requirements of current legislation;
- information and discussion about the Church's work and policy, and;
- the pastoral care of the members and business remitted from the Trustees.

c. Members introducing new business are required to give two weeks previous notice in writing through the Church Secretary.

d. Should the need arise, a special Church Meeting may be called at any time by the Elders, or by 30% of Church members, but only after two Sundays prior intimation. Information relating to the subject of the meeting shall be presented to the trustees two weeks prior to any meeting.

e. Every member at a Church Meeting shall have one vote, and if there are an equal number of votes for and against any resolution, the Chair of the meeting shall be entitled to a casting vote.

8. Procedures for Church Meetings

a. The usual minimum period of notice required to hold any general Church meeting is two Sundays prior to the date of said Church Meeting.

b. A church meeting may be called at shorter notice if it is deemed necessary by the Elders.

c. The notice must specify the date, time, and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. If the meeting is to be an Annual General Meeting, then the notice must say so

d. No business shall be transacted at any Church Meeting unless 30% of Church members are present and entitled to vote.

9. Trustees with personal interests

a. A Trustee who has a personal interest in any transaction or arrangement which the Church is proposing to enter into, must declare that interest at a Church Meeting. He/she will be debarred from voting on whether or not the Church should enter into that transaction or arrangement.

b. Provided he/she has declared their interest – and has not voted on the question of whether the Church should enter into the relevant arrangement – a Trustee will not be debarred from entering into an arrangement with the Church in which he/she has a personal interest and may retain any benefit which he/she gains from his/her participation in that arrangement.

10. Operation of Accounts and Holding of Property

a. All heritable properties of the Church shall be held on behalf of the Church by the Trustees of the Church;

b. The management of the Church will be the responsibility of the Elders.

c. The signatures of the signatories appointed by the Elders shall be required in relation to all operations (other than lodgement of funds) on the bank and building society accounts held by the Church. There will be three signatories who must be Trustees. Items of expenditure exceeding £4,000 (four thousand pounds sterling) must be specifically authorised by the Trustees unless made in implementation of a budget or other decision approved by a church meeting. This figure can be altered to account for inflation by a general meeting of the church members without the necessity of amending the constitution.

11. Accounting Records and Annual Accounts

a. The Trustees of the Church shall ensure that proper accounting records are maintained in accordance with all applicable statutory requirements.

b. The Trustees shall prepare annual accounts, complying with all relevant statutory requirements. If an audit is required under any statutory provisions, or if they otherwise think fit, they shall ensure that an audit of such accounts is carried out by a qualified auditor.

12. Financial Year

The Church's financial year shall end on 31 March.

13. Amendments

Any provision contained in this Constitution may be amended, provided that:

a. a resolution is passed by no less than three quarters of those present and voting at a Church Meeting called for the purpose by special intimation from the pulpit on two preceding Sundays;

b. no amendment may be made that would have the effect of making the Church cease to be a Church (subject to any provisions regarding dissolution).

c. the notice for a Church Meeting to amend the Constitution detailed in point 13(a) will include full details of any amendment(s) proposed;

d. The trustees of the Church shall ensure that an amended copy of the constitution is distributed to all members.

14. Remuneration

Any remuneration paid to a Church Trustee must satisfy the criteria laid down in Section 67 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

15. Liability of members

a. The members of the Church have no liability to pay any sums to help to meet the debts (or other liabilities) of the Church if it is wound up; accordingly, if the Church is unable to meet its debts, the members will not be held responsible.

b. The Trustees of the Church have certain legal duties under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005; and clause 15(a) above does not apply to any personal liabilities they might incur if they are in breach of those duties.

16. Dissolution

a. If three quarters or more members of the Church are of the opinion that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Church, they shall call a meeting of all the members giving no less than 21 days notice and stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed.

b. In the event of the Church being dissolved or otherwise ceasing to exist, the Trustees will remain in office as Church Trustees and be responsible for winding up the affairs of the Church in accordance with this clause.

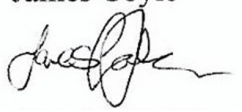
c. The Trustees must collect in all the assets of the Church and must make provision for all the liabilities of the Church.

d. The Trustees must apply the assets of the Church to the work of the Gospel in reaching people throughout Scotland with the good news of Jesus Christ .

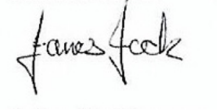
e. If the Church is to be dissolved, the winding-up process will be carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005

Signatures *(Trustees as at date of adoption of this Constitution)*

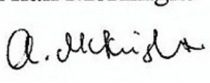
James Coyle



James Jack



Alan McKnight



May Pettigrew



William Pettigrew



Amendment 5.d.ii was added following a membership vote on the 21st September 2025 and ratified by the trustees on the 30th October 2025 *(Trustees as at date of membership vote)*.



Mark Nelson (Pastor/Elder)



Charles Conaghan (Elder/ Treasurer)



Pearl McCracken (Secretary)