

Longmeadow Evangelical Church

CHURCH PRACTICES



Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21

SUMMARY

There are two documents which determine the orderly government of Longmeadow Evangelical Church (the Church). The first document is the 'Constitution' and the second is the 'Practices'.

The Constitution contains all the necessary provisions that the Charity Commission expects and requires of a charity. It specifies requirements on the Church for orderly government and sets the boundaries within which governance may be exercised. It states what the Church must do and the limits of what it may do. Copies of the Constitution are available on request.

This document contains the Church Practices. These Practices set out in more detail than is needed by the Constitution how the Church governs itself within the boundaries of the Constitution and in accordance with the Bible.

The Church Practices are in three parts:

Part 1 summarises the principles set out in the Constitution.

Part 2 provides the biblical principles for church government.

Part 3 sets out the Practices.

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PART 1 - PRINCIPLES FOR TRUST PURPOSES

- 1.1.1 The Church is established under a Constitution dated 2nd December 2008, which contains the main legal provisions governing the Church, its purpose and Basis of Faith, its powers and the use of any property owned by the Church. For ease of reference the Basis of Faith is set out in 3.19.1. The Constitution appoints The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches Limited as Holding Trustee and the Church Officers as the Managing Trustees (Clause 5 and Clause 6).
- 1.1.2 The duly appointed and/or elected Elders, Pastors and Church Council as set out below are the Officers of the Church and are therefore the Managing Trustees as laid down in the Constitution (Clause 6).
- 1.1.3 The Constitution contains provision for the meetings of the Church Officers meeting as the Managing Trustees (Clause 12).
- 1.1.4 These Practices set out the rules of the Church and its method of internal government.

PART 2 - CHURCH PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

2.1 Principles

- 2.1.1 Longmeadow Evangelical Church is a fellowship of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ gathering together in His Name in or near the Longmeadow neighbourhood of Stevenage.
- 2.1.2 The Church shall seek to fulfil New Testament principles and practice in the purposes it follows and in the conduct of its affairs.
- 2.1.3 The Church shall, in particular, recognise and seek to give practical acknowledgment to:
- (a) our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ as Head of the Church, both local and universal (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:8-20);
 - (b) the Bible as the supreme and sufficient authority (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:5-6; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Revelation 22:18-19);
 - (c) the Holy Spirit working in the corporate life of the Church (1 Corinthians 12:7) as well as in the personal life of the believer, particularly in:
 - (i) calling individuals to specific service (Acts 13:2);
 - (ii) directing activities and making possible true worship (Acts 16:6-10; John 4:24);
 - (iii) giving spiritual gifts and enabling their exercise (Acts 1:8; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-13);
 - (d) the responsibility of the local Church for the furtherance of the Gospel, locally and around the world (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8);
 - (e) the local Church's direct dependence on, and responsibility to, the Lord (Colossians 1:18; Colossians 3:15-17; Ephesians 1:22-23);
 - (f) the regular preaching and teaching of the Bible (Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 9:16-18; 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:2);
 - (g) the essential unity of all true believers, which indicates the extent and limit of Christian fellowship (John 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:3-6).

2.2 Practice

- 2.2.1 The Church shall be under the care of Elders (Titus 1:5), who shall exercise the authority and bear the responsibility laid upon them in the Bible.
- 2.2.2 Christian Baptism and Communion (The Lord's Supper) shall be practised in accordance with the Lord's command and New Testament teaching (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29).
- 2.2.3 All aspects of Church life shall be conducted "in a fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

PART 3 - PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH

3.1 Members and Membership

- 3.1.1 Members of the Church fellowship shall be Christian believers whose applications for Membership have been commended by the Church Officers and approved by the Church. They will have confirmed their agreement to the Basis of Faith and their acceptance of these Practices.
- 3.1.2 Members will cease to belong to the Church fellowship if they resign or if their Membership is terminated by Resolution passed at a Church Business Meeting (Practice 3.5).

3.2 Privileges of Membership

- 3.2.1 Membership brings with it certain privileges which include:
- (a) recognised membership of the local Body of Christ in all its work and worship (1 Corinthians 12:4-27);
 - (b) participation in discussing and agreeing the way in which the local Church should move forward (Acts 13:1-3);
 - (c) participation in the role of the Church in the local community (Matthew 5:13-16; Acts 8:4);
 - (d) the benefit of pastoral care (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-3).

3.3 Responsibilities of Membership

- 3.3.1 To maintain a conscientious attendance at the main services for public worship, especially at the Lord's Supper, at opportunities for prayer and Bible study, at Church Business Meetings, and generally to share in the fellowship of the Church (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25).
- 3.3.2 To support the Church Officers and to work together in the building up and safeguarding of the Church (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 5:17-20; Hebrews 13:17).
- 3.3.3 To recognise and to live out the unity of the fellowship in the Lord Jesus (John 13:34; 17:20-23; Ephesians 4:1-3; 4:32).
- 3.3.4 To recognise the diversity of gifts given to God's people and to use them diligently, having in mind the spiritual qualifications required in all areas of the Lord's service (Acts 6:3; Ephesians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 12:27-31).

- 3.3.5 To give special attention to the stewardship of resources; that time, energies and possessions be used through the Church to the Glory of God (Acts 2:44-47; 4:34-35; 11:28-30; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
- 3.3.6 To pray for one another (Ephesians 6:18 Colossians 4:2).
- 3.3.7 In all respects to seek to live worthy of the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:1-4; Philippians 1:27; Colossians 1:9-10).

3.4 Admission to Membership

- 3.4.1 It is the responsibility of those who have received the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and have become children of God (John 1:12, 13) to seek the fellowship of a local Church (Acts 2:47).
- 3.4.2 Such believers who profess that God has saved them (Romans 10:9; Titus 3:4-8) and who give evidence of this fact by seeking to live a holy life (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; Titus 2:11-14) shall be received into membership.
- 3.4.3 Christians desiring to be received into Membership, having satisfied the Church Officers as to their character and experience, shall be proposed to the next Church Business Meeting, and if approved shall be received at the next following occasion of the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:47).
- 3.4.4 The Church Officers shall maintain a written register of all Members (Constitution Clause 4).

3.5 Termination of Membership

- 3.5.1 A Member may voluntarily resign by notifying the Church Officers and this will be reported to the next Church Business Meeting.
- 3.5.2 A Member may be removed from Membership by the application of the disciplinary procedure set out in Practice 3.14.

3.6 Baptism

- 3.6.1 Baptism shall be administered to, and only to, believers upon confession of their personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour (Acts 2:38-41). The mode of baptism will be immersion, but on the recommendation of the Church Officers and if approved by the Members an alternative mode may be applied where this is felt appropriate.

- 3.6.2 Those who receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and have become children of God (John 1:12-13) should be baptised in obedience to the Lord's command (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38). Believers who are baptised will be received into Membership. Requests for baptism will therefore be considered in the same way as applications for Membership - as in Practice 3.4.3.
- 3.6.3 Those being baptised will be encouraged to share their personal testimony to God's grace on the occasion of their baptism (Romans 10:9-10; 1 Timothy 6:12).

3.7 The Lord's Supper

- 3.7.1 The Lord's Supper is to be celebrated by believers as an act of fellowship together in remembrance of the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us. In it we remember the risen Lord and proclaim His death until He returns in obedience to His command (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34).
- 3.7.2 The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated regularly and at least twice a month and in accordance with the Lord's injunction and New Testament practice (Luke 22:14-20, Acts 2:42-47, 1 Corinthians 11:23-28).
- 3.7.3 In recognition of the wider body of Christ visitors who are in a right relationship with the Lord and their home church are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper.

3.8 Church Officers

- 3.8.1 The duly appointed and/or elected Elders, Pastors and Church Council as set out below are the Officers of the Church and are therefore the Managing Trustees as laid down in the Constitution. Under English law certain persons are not allowed to be a trustee. The Constitution sets out the exclusions (3.19.1 to these Practices for ease of reference) and these must always apply unless the Charity Commission has agreed otherwise in writing. (Constitution Clause 16 (1))
- 3.8.2 In all actions taken by them the Church Officers shall prayerfully and earnestly seek unanimity and shall recognise the importance of the Lord's leading.

3.9 The Elders

- 3.9.1 The Elders are those recognised as Elders when this Constitution first became operative and continuing in office together with others subsequently appointed.

- 3.9.2 The Elders shall prayerfully consider adding to their number, and those nominated by them for appointment shall, if approved by the Church, be separated to the work by the existing Elders at a meeting of the Church for public worship.
- 3.9.3 It is desirable that the number of Elders at any one time shall be not less than three and not more than seven. This Rule should not be used to exclude suitably qualified men who are willing to make a positive contribution to the fellowship in this office; nor to appoint men who are not willing or not qualified for this office (1 Timothy 3:1; 1 Peter 5:2-3).
- 3.9.4 Elders shall be Members of the Church, fully in agreement with the Basis of Faith.
- 3.9.5 Appointment as Elder may be terminated by resignation or by Resolution passed at a Church Business Meeting.
- 3.9.6 The Elders are men responsible to the Lord for the spiritual well-being of the Church (Hebrews 13:17).
- 3.9.7 The qualifications for an Elder in character and conduct are set out in 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4.
- 3.9.8 The role of an Elder is to be an overseer and under-shepherd of the local Church (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:2-3).
- 3.9.9 The function of the Elders as a group is to give leadership, to preach and to teach (1 Timothy 5:17, 2 Timothy 4:2), to feed the Church of God (Acts 20:28) and to be examples (Hebrews 13:7).
- 3.9.10 The Elders have responsibility to safeguard the purity of doctrine (Titus 1:9); and to maintain the discipline of the Church (Hebrews 13:17). The teaching and ministry of the Elders shall be in accordance with the Basis of Faith.
- 3.9.11 The Elders are responsible with the Members for discerning and nurturing the gifts that have been given to the Church (1 Peter 4:10-11) and recognising such gifts by appointing those who will be leaders and workers in the various departments of the Church's life (Ephesians 4:11-13).

3.10 The Pastors

- 3.10.1 Where possible and practical the Church should seek to set aside one or more of the Elders to serve the Church in a full-time capacity. Within these Practices such Elders are referred to as Pastors.

- 3.10.2 The Church should provide financial support to those who serve in this role, whether in a full or part-time capacity. This financial support should provide the Pastor(s) with a standard of living in keeping with that of other Members (1 Corinthians 9:6-14; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; Galatians 6:6).
- 3.10.3 With regard to their responsibilities Pastors may also be referred to as Ministers, i.e. of the Word of God.

3.11 Practical Christian Service

- 3.11.1 All believers should prayerfully consider how they can use the gifts they have been given in Christian service (1 Peter 4:10-11) within and outside the Church (Romans 12:3-7), and should have in mind that spiritual qualifications are essential even for practical service (Acts 6:3).
- 3.11.2 In the various spheres of Christian service in the Church, whether practical service or service of a more spiritual nature, those appointed to positions of responsibility should be known for their faithfulness to the Lord (Acts 6:3-4). The character and conduct of such people must be in accordance with the principles laid down in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. People appointed to such positions are sometimes referred to as deacons.

3.12 Church Council

- 3.12.1 Where there are less than three Church Officers as required under the Constitution then the Members shall be able to appoint not less than three and not more than seven of their number, inclusive of any Church Officers appointed under 3.9, to act as a Church Council. The Members of the Church Council shall then constitute the Church Officers until such time as those persons appointed under 3.9 shall in total equal or exceed three.

3.13 Church Secretary and Church Treasurer

- 3.13.1 The Church Officers shall appoint from among their number a Church Secretary and a Church Treasurer.
- 3.13.2 The Church Secretary shall be responsible for the management of the Church Business Meetings.
- 3.13.3 The Church Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial accounts of the Church. Any Member holding any Church funds shall account for those funds to the Church Treasurer, together with such explanations and documentary evidence as will enable the funds to be incorporated into the Church accounts.

3.14 Church Discipline

a.i.1 Reasons for Discipline

a.i.1.1 To the end that the Lord's name is held in honour, an allegation against a Member for any of the following may be investigated by the Church Officers:

- (a) denial of the Basis of Faith (2 John 9-11);
- (b) immorality (1 Corinthians 5:1-13);
- (c) divisiveness (Titus 3:10);
- (d) any other persistent activity or behaviour that is contrary to the clear teaching of the Bible (2 Thessalonians 3:6,14-15).

a.i.1.2 A Member who has been persistently absent from the services of public worship without good reason, and in particular who fails to share in the Lord's Supper for more than three months, shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Church and the reason investigated by the Church Officers (Hebrews 10:25).

a.i.1.3 When an allegation is made against a Member as in a.i.1.1, or they are absent as in a.i.1.2, and normal pastoral care cannot resolve the situation, the procedure set out below shall be followed.

a.i.2 Procedure

a.i.2.1 The Church Officers should be informed whenever it is believed that this procedure should be followed. When such a concern is received or when they themselves believe such a situation to exist, the Church Officers shall appoint two of their number to meet with the Member to enquire into the matter and report the facts to a meeting of the Church Officers. Following this they may put a resolution to the Members at a Church Business Meeting that the person be suspended or removed from Membership.

a.i.2.2 Step One: Notice of Investigation

The Church Officers will write to the Member about whom an allegation has been made or who has been persistently absent to inform them that the matter is to be investigated and to let them know the procedure that will be followed.

a.i.2.3 Step Two: Investigation (Matthew 18:15-17)

The Church Officers shall appoint two of their number to meet the Member. At this meeting the Member has the right to be accompanied by one other person to support them. The Member will be invited to give an explanation about the allegation or persistent absence. Following the meeting the Church Officers will report back to the other Church Officers and, after prayer, determine what action, if any, is to be taken. The Member will be informed of the proposed action in writing.

If the Member disagrees with the decision of the Church Officers they can request a review of the decision. The Member must inform the Church Officers in writing of their request within two weeks of receiving the decision.

a.i.2.4 Step Three: Review

The Church Officers will arrange a further meeting where all the Church Officers will meet with the Member to state the reason for their decision and allow the Member the opportunity to respond. The Member will again be invited to bring one other person to the meeting to support them.

If, in the judgment of the Church Officers, no valid reason is given at this meeting for the persistent absence or dishonourable behaviour, then they may recommend that a resolution be put to the Members at a Church Business Meeting that the person be disciplined or removed from Membership. Following the meeting the Church Officers will inform the Member of their decision in writing.

a.i.2.5 Step Four: Resolution by the Members

Notice will be given to Members of the proposed resolution either to put the Member under discipline for an agreed period or to remove them from Membership. A Church Business Meeting will be called in accordance with 3.15.2.

The outcome of the resolution will be reported to the Member in writing by the Church Secretary. When a Member is removed from Membership the register of Members shall be amended accordingly.

The decision of the Church Business Meeting is final.

a.i.2.6 Step Five: Disciplinary Reflection

When a Member is put under discipline they will be excluded from participating in the Lord's Supper and from attending Church Business Meetings unless and until they are restored to

fellowship. The Church Officers shall ensure that they review the situation, with prayer, no less frequently than at monthly intervals.

At the end of the disciplinary period, which should not exceed 12 months, the Church Officers will once again review the case of the Member under discipline. If the Member persistently refuses to modify their behaviour or accept the counsel of the Church Officers, the Church Officers may recommend that the Member be removed from Membership. In which case the Member will be informed in writing and a resolution put to a Church Business Meeting in accordance with Step Four of the discipline procedure.

a.i.2.7 Step Six: Restoration

If the Member shows remorse for their dishonourable behaviour (James 5:19-20) and has made a determined effort to live honourably before God, the Church Officers will recommend to a Church Business Meeting that the Member be welcomed back into full fellowship (2 Corinthians 2:5-8).

a.i.3 Discipline of Church Officers

a.i.3.1 In the case of a Church Officer being accused by at least two Members under a.i.1, the Church Officer will cease to function as a Church Officer until the matter has been resolved in accordance with a.i.2. An additional final outcome for a Church Officer is that their appointment as a Church Officer may be terminated but they remain a Member. (1 Timothy 5:19-20)

a.i.3.2 The Church Officers may feel that there are reasons for releasing a Church Officer from his appointment other than no longer adhering to the Basis of Faith, immorality, disunity, or behaviour that brings dishonour to the name of the Lord. If this is so then this is not to be considered a disciplinary termination and the Church Officers should follow the provisions set out in 3.9.5.

3.15 Church Business Meetings (Constitution Clause 17)

3.15.1 Prayer shall be given a place of importance at all Church Business Meetings, and the Lord's Will shall be earnestly sought (Acts 4:23-33; Acts 13:1-3; Ephesians 6:18-20; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2-3).

- 3.15.2 Church Business Meetings shall be called by the Church Officers at least once in each quarter of the year, and additionally at the request of one third of the Members. Non-members may attend at the invitation of the Church Officers. Fourteen days notice shall be given, in accordance with the Constitution. Failure to be able to give notice to individual Members because they are away from home or for similar reasons shall not constitute failure to give proper notice under this Practice.
- 3.15.3 The Church Officers shall appoint one of their number to be Chairman of any Church Business Meeting. The Chairman of a Church Business Meeting shall determine whether to permit discussion of any item not previously notified.
- 3.15.4 Important business will not be presented and decided at the same meeting. The normal approach should be to present new business at one meeting and for further discussion to be held at a subsequent meeting where a resolution is proposed and a decision taken. This will give Members the opportunity to pray through such decisions and consult with others.
- 3.15.5 Each year there will be an Annual General Meeting at which the financial accounts of the Church and the Managing Trustees' report will be presented in accordance with the Constitution Clause 17(1); at the first Business Meeting of each year reports of the various Church activities shall be presented.
- 3.15.6 Resolutions shall be regarded as valid and effective if recorded as duly passed at a Church Business Meeting. The Minutes of each Church Business Meeting shall be verified as a true record and signed by the Chairman of the subsequent Church Business Meeting.

3.16 Voting

- 3.16.1 The approval of the Members in any matter is to be expressed by the assent of at least two-thirds of those present at a Church Business Meeting, and at least one-third of the total Membership must be present to form a quorum, subject to the provisions of Rule 3.18.2below.
- 3.16.2 Members under 18 shall not vote or be reckoned for voting purposes.
- 3.16.3 A reasoned request for a secret ballot may be made and if the Church Officers agree or where two thirds of the voting Members present at the Church Business Meeting agree, a secret ballot will be held.

- 3.16.4 A postal vote may be accepted on any item with the agreement of the Church Officers.

3.17 Church Property

- 3.17.1 The property shall be used only for the purposes as defined in the Constitution Clause 3.
- 3.17.2 Where the Church wishes to buy new property or sell existing property the Holding Trustee (currently The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches Limited), as the registered title holder of property for the Church, will require a resolution of the Members approving the Church Officers' recommendation for that transaction.

3.18 Amendment of the Practices (Constitution Clause 19)

- 3.18.1 Other than Practices 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 3.4.4 and 3.8.1, any Practice can be amended by the Church Officers under the authority of a resolution of the Members of the Church approving such a change at a Church Business Meeting, provided that the proposed amendment shall not be such as would cause the Church to lose its charitable status. Practices 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 3.4.4 and 3.8.1 can only be amended where the provisions of the Constitution referred to in those Practices have been amended.
- 3.18.2 The agreement of three quarters of voting Members is required to approve a proposed amendment to any Practice excepting Practices 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 3.4.4 and 3.8.1 where the amendment will automatically follow the amendment of the Constitution without the need for a vote.
- 3.18.3 Notice of any proposed amendment together with the specific wording of the proposed change must be given in writing to all Members at least three weeks before the meeting at which the proposal will be put to the vote. Failure to be able to give notice to individual Members because they are away from home or for similar reasons shall not constitute failure to give proper notice under this Practice.
- 3.18.4 No amendment may be made under this Practice to any provision of the Constitution, including the Basis of Faith, to any other trust deed in relation to the Church property, or be such as would be contrary to any provision in the Constitution.

3.19 Closure of the Church (Constitution Clause 18)

- 3.19.1 In the event of the Members of the Church resolving to close the Church the Church Officers shall apply the funds to meet all outstanding liabilities. Sufficient funds must be retained to meet the insurance and maintenance costs for any property until such time as it is sold, or otherwise disposed of. The remaining funds shall be distributed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

APPENDIX A - BASIS OF FAITH

A.1 God

There is one God, who exists eternally in three distinct but equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is unchangeable in his holiness, justice, wisdom and love. He is the almighty Creator, Saviour and Judge, who sustains and governs all things according to his sovereign will for his own glory.

A.2 The Bible

God has revealed himself in the Bible, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word was inspired by God through human authors, so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine. The Bible alone speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

A.3 The Human Race

All men and women, being created in the image of God, have inherent and equal dignity and worth. Their greatest purpose is to obey, worship and love God. As a result of the fall of our first parents, every aspect of human nature has been corrupted and all men and women are without spiritual life, guilty sinners and hostile to God. Every person is therefore under the just condemnation of God and needs to be born again, forgiven and reconciled to God in order to know and please him.

A.4 The Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father. He taught with authority and all his words are true. On the cross he died in the place of sinners, bearing God's punishment for their sin, redeeming them by his blood. He rose from the dead and in his resurrection body ascended into heaven where he is exalted as Lord of all. He intercedes for his people in the presence of the Father.

A.5 Salvation

Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved. It has been accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ and is offered to all in the gospel. God in his love forgives sinners whom he calls, granting them repentance and

faith. All who believe in Christ are justified by faith alone, adopted into the family of God and receive eternal life.

A.6 The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven to glorify Christ and to apply his work of salvation. He convicts sinners, imparts spiritual life and gives a true understanding of the Scriptures. He indwells all believers, brings assurance of salvation and produces increasing likeness to Christ. He builds up the Church and empowers its members for worship, service and mission.

A.7 The Church

The universal Church is the body of which Christ is the head and to which all who are saved belong. It is made visible in local churches, which are congregations of believers who are committed to each other for the worship of God, the preaching of the Word, the administering of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; for pastoral care and discipline, and for evangelism. The unity of the body of Christ is expressed within and between churches by mutual love, care and encouragement. True fellowship between churches exists only where they are faithful to the gospel.

A.8 Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Baptism and the Lord's Supper have been given to the churches by Christ as visible signs of the gospel. Baptism is a symbol of union with Christ and entry into his Church but does not impart spiritual life. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of Christ's sacrifice offered once for all and involves no change in the bread and wine. All its blessings are received by faith.

A.9 The Future

The Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory. He will raise the dead and judge the world in righteousness. The wicked will be sent to eternal punishment and the righteous will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God. God will make all things new and will be glorified forever.

APPENDIX B – CHARITIES ACT 1993

B.1 CHARITIES ACT 1993, SECTION 72— DISQUALIFICATION OF TRUSTEES

- B.1.1.1 A person is disqualified from being a trustee (*of any charity*) under Section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 if:
- (i) he or she has been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or deception;
 - (ii) he or she has been adjudged bankrupt or sequestration of his/her estate has been awarded and (in either case) he/she has not been discharged;
 - (iii) he or she has made a composition or arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, his/her creditors and has not been discharged in respect of it;
 - (iv) he or she has been removed from the office of charity trustee by an order of the Charity Commissioners or of the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which he/she was responsible or to which he/she was privy, or which he/she by his/her conduct contributed to or facilitated;
 - (v) he or she has been removed under Section 7 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions)(Scotland) Act 1990 from being concerned in the management or control of any body; or
 - (vi) he or she is subject to a disqualification order made under the Company Director's Disqualification Act 1986 or the Insolvency Act 1986.
- B.1.1.2 The Charity Commission has discretionary power to waive the disqualification and they must be approached with the facts and their written approval sought.

APPENDIX C - KEY EVENTS

Year	Event
1952	The site in Oaks Cross allocated by the Stevenage Development Corporation following the initial vision and action of Pastor H.G. Goddard and the New Causes Committee of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches.
Mid 1950's	Development of Longmeadow neighbourhood as part of the New Town.
1957	Christian work commenced in the Tenants Meeting Room, Marymead, in conjunction with Welwyn Evangelical Church — namely Sunday School on September 16th, and Evening Service at 8 p.m. commenced a week later.
Nov. 1957	Commencement of Sunday Morning Service, weekly observance of the Lord's Supper, and additional Sunday School at 10 a.m.
June 1959	First Baptismal Service (by courtesy of the Hydean Way Baptist Church) when five persons confessed their faith by baptism.
Sept. 1959	Constitution of the Church as a local Christian fellowship, with 17 members of whom three were appointed Elders.
1960	The Church received into membership of the FIEC. and the Pastor accorded ministerial recognition.
1961	Plans for a first stage Church hall on the Oaks Cross site settled by a Committee of FIEC and Church members.
Autumn 1962	Dedication of the original building and opening for the worship and service of God and the preaching of the Gospel to His glory.
Jan. 2003	Larger worship area opened with a Thanksgiving Service.

The original Practices were approved in substance at the Church Meeting held on 24th October 1959 when the Church was first constituted. They were revised and approved at a Church Meeting held on 15th September, 1962. The Practices have been subsequently revised with input from the FIEC Model Practices and in their present form were approved at a Church Business Meeting on the 2nd December 2008.