

Wirral Chinese Christian Church

14 Woodchurch Rd, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 2UF

Byelaws

ARTICLE 1 - DOCTRINAL BASIS

The doctrinal basis of Wirral Chinese Christian Church (hereafter referred to as The Church) is:

- This church believes in one God, who exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- This church believes that the Bible is the sole authority for faith and observes baptism, fulfilling the command of Jesus Christ.
- This church acknowledges two sacraments, namely baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- This church affirms and accepts the historical creeds and the principles and teachings of the Protestant churches.
- This church regards the divine revelation of the Bible as the highest standard for faith and conduct.

ARTICLE 2 - ORDINANCES

- Baptism: The mode of baptism is by full immersion on personal confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In exceptional circumstances, other modes of baptism are acceptable.
- Holy Communion: The remembrance of the Lord's death through the Holy Communion is observed regularly. All baptized believers whose conduct is consistent with their confession of their faith are received at the Lord's Table.

ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

- Anyone who has received adult baptism and sincerely desires to free themselves from sin through faith in the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ is welcome to join this church as a member, provided they are aged sixteen or over, have attended this church regularly for one year, and agree with the church's constitution.
- As members of the church, individuals are to be united with Christ and fellow believers, accepting the rights and responsibilities of church membership.
- The rights and responsibilities of members include actively fostering fellowship with other

believers, supporting the church through prayer, attendance, giving, and Christian service in the world, and participating in the general meetings of members with the right to vote.

ARTICLE 4 – THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP GROUP

- The Church Leadership Group consists of charity trustees, Ministers and/or Pastoral Workers and Elected Leadership Members. The maximum number of Church Leadership Group is determined by the Ministers and Deacons. There shall be Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Church Leadership Group. Other officers of the Church Leadership Group shall be appointed as deemed necessary by the Church Leadership Group.
- The area of responsibility of each church Leader is agreed upon by the Church Leadership Group.
- Church Leadership Meetings shall have a quorum of at least two-thirds of the number of Church Leadership Group.
- Decisions are made with a simple majority among those present at the Church Leadership Meeting and a simple majority among the Trustees who present at the Meeting.

ARTICLE 5- Qualification of Church Leader Candidacy

- Candidates shall have attained 18 years of age at the time of nomination.
- Candidates shall be members of The Church for at least twelve months by the time of the election and have demonstrated over a sufficient length of time that they are faithful and mature members of the body of Christ and faithfully devote themselves to personal prayer and study of the Word.
- Candidates shall be willing to participate wholeheartedly in the ministry of The Church.
- The nomination of the elected leadership members must be voted in by the Church Leadership Group, requiring a two-thirds majority. They will only be officially appointed as church leaders after receiving a majority vote at the General Meeting.

ARTICLE 6 – MINISTERS OR PASTORAL WORKERS

The Appointment, Retention or Termination of the Service of the Ministers or Pastoral Workers

- The recommendation to engage, retain or terminate the service of a Ministers or Pastoral Workers is made by the Church Leadership Group and the Trustees.
- The appointment of Pastoral Worker requires a two-thirds majority vote by the Church Leadership

Group, and they will only be officially appointed as pastoral staff after receiving a majority vote at the General Meeting.

- The Ministers or Pastoral Workers shall sign and agree to the doctrinal basis and objectives of The Church.
- The Ministers or Pastoral Workers shall be a person equipped by theological training and experience of pastoral work, who is deemed by The Church to be suitably gifted and capable of spiritual leadership and ministry in The Church.
- The Ministers or Pastoral Workers shall go through a reasonable probationary period; thereafter the length of each term of service and the terms and conditions of service shall be agreed by the Church Leader Group and the Trustees.
- In the case of a Pastoral Workers, the Church Leader Group and the Trustees shall, at the recommendation of the Pastors and Deacons, make plans for his ordination after he has demonstrated commendable service over a period of time.
- The contractual retirement age of the Ministers or Pastoral Workers is 65. Appointment on fixed-term contract beyond contractual retirement age may be granted after negotiation among the Ministers or Pastoral Workers, the Church Leadership Group and the Trustees.
- The termination of the service of a Minister or Pastoral Worker shall be unanimously agreed by all the members of the Church Leadership Group. Otherwise, this recommendation shall be put to the members before a General Meeting and approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at the General Meeting.

ARTICLE 7 - DEACONS

7.1 Qualification of Deacons Candidacy

- Candidates shall be willing to participate wholeheartedly in the ministry of The Church.
- The newly elected leadership members must be voted in by the Church Leadership Group, requiring a two-thirds majority. They will only be officially appointed as church leaders after receiving a majority vote at the General Meeting.

7.2 Responsibilities of Deacons

- The spiritual oversight of The Church on matters of doctrine, governing principles, and pastoral care.

ARTICLE 8 - AMENDMENTS

- Proposals for amendments to the byelaws may be initiated by the Church Leader Group, or by at least ten members or one tenth of the membership who submit in writing to the Church Leader Group, their reasons for such proposals and affirm their acceptance of the objectives and

doctrinal basis of The Church.

- Proposals for amendments shall be considered by the Trustees in accordance with the recommendation of the Church Leader Group.

ARTICLE 9 - FINANCE AND AUDIT

- The Church financial year ends on 5th April in each year.
- The financial statements are presented at the AGM. They are examined or audited in accordance with the regulations laid down by the Charity Commission.
- There shall be 2 signatories, at least one shall be a Trustee, to all cheques issued by The Church. The authorized signatories shall include at least three Trustees and two members of the Church Leader Group.