

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE (REVISED ver. 28 October 2021)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Name

The name of the denomination is “The Presbyterian Church in Singapore”, hereinafter referred to as “PCS”.

1.2 Address

The address of PCS is 132 Sophia Road, Church House, Singapore 228186 or such other address as may subsequently be decided upon by PCS and approved by the Registrar of Societies. PCS shall carry out its activities only in places and premises which have the prior written approval from the relevant authorities, where necessary.

1.3 Purpose

PCS is established to unite the Presbyterian churches in Singapore to form the Presbyterian denomination in Singapore. The purpose of PCS is to:

- (i) promote a common belief and doctrine among its Members;
- (ii) develop its Members through developing its leaders; and
- (iii) to be a corporate witness of the good news of the Gospel in society.

1.4 Structure

In accordance with the principles of Presbyterian polity, the Members of PCS shall be organized into Presbyteries, each Presbytery is a court composed of the Representatives appointed by the Members to represent it at the general meetings of the Presbytery, and all the Representatives from all the Presbyteries collectively form the Synod.

2. STATEMENT OF FAITH

- 2.1** PCS believes in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God in Three Persons, to be the only true God.
- 2.2** PCS believes in Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church, the Savior and Redeemer of the world and only Mediator between God and man. All powers and functions in the Church are subject to Christ's authority. The Church throughout the world and of all ages is His Body, of which PCS is a member.
- 2.3** PCS accepts the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as the true Word of God, inspired and holy, and as the supreme standard of faith and duty. It acknowledges the Apostles' Creed and the Westminster Confession of Faith as worthily expressing the fundamental and traditional faith commonly held by the Church.

3. PRESBYTERIAN DISTINCTIVE

PCS inherited the polity of the Reformed Church from John Calvin. It preserves the biblical understanding that the offices of ministers, elders and deacons manage the affairs of a congregation. The Church is a body of believers. As children of God united in Him, the Church is not hierarchical; instead, it promotes democracy, representation and orderliness in its practices.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Conditions of Membership

Membership of PCS is open to all Presbyterian churches in Singapore (each a "Presbyterian Church") and have agreed to:

- (i) adopt a constitution substantially in the form set out in the Session Model Constitution or the Elders and Deacons Court Model Constitution annexed as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, respectively;
- (ii) subscribe to the Statement of Faith of PCS and the Presbyterian Distinctive as set out in Articles 2 and 3, respectively;
- (iii) sign a Pledge of Allegiance to PCS; and
- (iv) abide by the responsibilities of membership as set out in Article 4.3 herein.

4.2 Application for Membership

- 4.2.1 A Presbyterian Church that intends to become a Member of PCS (an “Applicant”) must submit a written application to PCS in the prescribed form. The application shall be made to the relevant Presbytery as determined by the language used by the Applicant’s congregation.
- 4.2.2 The Applicant must agree to the conditions set out in Article 4.1 and have obtained the consent of two-thirds of the members of the Applicant present and voting at a general meeting of the Applicant to join PCS.
- 4.2.3 The Presbytery Executive Committee (“Exco”) shall consider the application and submit its recommendation to the Synod Exco who may approve or reject the application. The approval may be subject to such conditions as the Synod Exco may impose. The decision of the Synod Exco shall be final.

4.3 Responsibilities of Members

- 4.3.1 Members shall:
- (i) support the Purpose of PCS as set out in Article 1.3;
 - (ii) subscribe to the Statement of Faith of PCS and the Presbyterian Distinctive as set out in Articles 2 and 3, respectively; and
 - (iii) pay the prescribed annual contribution to PCS.
- 4.3.2 Where PCS finds that any Member has acted in a manner unbecoming of a Member or is by any act or omission likely to hinder the witness of PCS or render it of ill repute, the Member shall be requested to have one of its Representatives appear before the relevant Presbytery Exco. The Presbytery Exco shall have the power to refer the Member to the Synod Exco for discipline. The Synod Exco shall have the power to discipline, by admonition, rebuke, suspension and/or revocation of membership, a Member in accordance with the by-laws.

4.4 Rights of Members

4.4.1 Each Member shall have the right to appoint representatives (“Representatives”) to represent it at the general meetings of the Presbytery to which it belongs and the general meetings of the Synod. If a Member has a separate congregation that serves a different language group and that congregation has, pursuant to Article 4.2, been accepted to be a member of the relevant Presbytery, the Member may appoint Representatives from that congregation to attend the general meetings of that Presbytery and the general meetings of the Synod.

4.4.2 The Representatives shall comprise of the Senior Minister, Associate Ministers, Preachers, Co-Workers and such number of Elders and/or Deacons which the Member is entitled to appoint as set out in the by-laws

If any of the Representatives are not able to attend a general meeting of the Presbytery or a general meeting of the Synod, the Member shall be entitled to replace that Representative and shall notify the Presbytery Exco or the Synod Exco, as the case may be, of the replacement at least seven (7) days before the date of the general meeting.

4.4.3 The Representatives of the Member shall have the right to speak, to nominate, vote and be elected to hold office at general meetings of the Presbytery and the general meetings of the Synod. Notwithstanding the number of Representatives, a Member is entitled to appoint, each Representative shall have one vote.

4.5 Termination of Membership

Membership of PCS may be terminated when:

- (i) the Member fails or ceases to subscribe to the Statement of Faith of PCS or the Presbyterian Distinctive as set out in Articles 2 and 3 respectively;
- (ii) the Member’s membership is revoked pursuant to Article 4.3.2;
- (iii) the Member is dissolved; or
- (iv) PCS and the Member both agree to part ways after best efforts to resolve their differences pursuant to Article 15.

5. PRESBYTERIES

5.1 Structure of Presbyteries

- 5.1.1 Members are organized into Presbyteries, each of which is a court composed of the Representatives of the Members of that Presbytery. Each Presbytery must be constituted by at least five Ministers and five Members.
- 5.1.2 A Member shall belong to the Presbytery with the same language as that used by its principal congregation. Where a Member has established a separate congregation to serve a different language group and has elected a Minister and at least two (2) Elders to serve that congregation, the Member may on behalf of that congregation apply to the Presbytery with the same language as that used by that congregation to become a member of that Presbytery. The Exco of that Presbytery shall consider the application and submit its recommendation to the Synod Exco who may approve or reject the application. The approval may be subject to such conditions as the Synod Exco may impose. The decision of the Synod Exco shall be final. For clarity, if Synod Exco does not approve the application, such a decision shall not affect the Member's membership in the relevant Presbytery and in PCS.

5.2 Functions of Presbyteries

- 5.2.1 The functions of each Presbytery shall include but not be limited to the following:
- (i) To support the purpose and mission of PCS.
 - (ii) To assist, guide and counsel those Members under it.
 - (iii) To train voluntary workers, to examine and approve Preachers for licensing, to ordain Ministers, to affirm the transfer of Ministers between Members, their exhortation and discipline.
- 5.2.2 A Presbytery in matters of difficulty may seek the guidance of the Synod Exco.

5.3 Delegates to General Meetings of the Presbytery

- 5.3.1 Only the Presbytery Exco and the Representatives of Members belonging to the Presbytery (the "Presbytery Delegates") may attend general meetings of the Presbytery and each shall have the right to speak, nominate, vote and be elected to hold office, save that a Presbytery Delegate who is an employee of PCS shall not be eligible to hold office in the Presbytery Exco. Each Presbytery Delegate shall have one vote.

- 5.3.2 The Presbytery Exco may invite individuals to attend general meetings of the Presbytery as observers, who have no right to speak, nominate, vote or be elected to hold office in the Presbytery Exco. During a general meeting, the Presbytery Moderator may invite an observer to share his views on an issue being discussed at the general meeting.

5.4 General Meetings of Presbytery

- 5.4.1 An annual general meeting of the Presbytery (“Presbytery AGM”) shall be held by March before the Synod Annual General Meeting, the time and place to be decided by the Presbytery Exco.
- 5.4.2 At least fourteen (14) days' written notice shall be given of a Presbytery AGM. Notice of meeting stating the date, time and place of meeting, and the agenda, shall be sent by the Presbytery Stated Clerk to all members of the Presbytery.
- 5.4.3 At other times, an extraordinary general meeting of the Presbytery (“Presbytery EGM”) may, when necessary, be called by the Presbytery Exco. The Presbytery Moderator and Presbytery Stated Clerk shall, at least ten (10) days before the Presbytery EGM, notify members of the Presbytery in writing of the date, time and place of the Presbytery EGM and the agenda of the Presbytery EGM.
- 5.4.4 An EGM may be called at any time at the request in writing of not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total members of the Presbytery. The Presbytery Exco shall convene the EGM in accordance with Article 5.4.3 within two (2) months of the date of receipt of such request. All costs and expenses occasioned by a Presbytery EGM convened on a request by members of the Presbytery must be borne collectively by the requisitioning members of the Presbytery.
- 5.4.5 Voting by proxy shall not be allowed at all meetings of the Presbytery.
- 5.4.6 The following points will be considered at the Presbytery AGM:
- (i) The annual report of the Presbytery Exco;
 - (ii) Where applicable, the election of office-bearers for the following term.
- 5.4.7 Any matter which has not been notified to members of the Presbytery prior to the general meeting may not be added to the agenda during the meeting.

- 5.4.8 Any member of the Presbytery who wishes to place an item on the agenda of a general meeting of the Presbytery shall submit his request in writing to the Presbytery Exco at least seven (7) days before the meeting is held and if the Presbytery Exco agrees that it is appropriate to include the item in the agenda, the Presbytery Stated Clerk shall notify the members of the Presbytery in writing of the change in agenda at least two (2) days before the meeting.
- 5.4.9 The quorum of a general meeting of the Presbytery shall be 30% of the total number of Presbytery Delegates except where expressly provided otherwise in this Constitution.
- 5.4.10 In the event that there is no quorum at the commencement of a general meeting of the Presbytery, the meeting shall be adjourned for seven (7) days or to such other day and at such other time and place as the Presbytery Exco may decide. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present, those Presbytery Delegates present shall be deemed a quorum and may transact the business for which the meeting was called except that such meeting shall not have the power to decide on matters concerning the purchase, sale of mortgage of property; or amendment of the Constitution; or the dissolution of PCS.

5.5 Presbytery Executive Committee

- 5.5.1 The administration of each Presbytery shall be entrusted to an Executive Committee ("Presbytery Exco") consisting of the following to be elected at Presbytery AGM:
- (i) A Presbytery Moderator;
 - (ii) A Presbytery Vice-Moderator;
 - (iii) A Presbytery Stated Clerk;
 - (iv) An Assistant Presbytery Stated Clerk;
 - (v) A Presbytery Treasurer;
 - (vi) An Assistant Presbytery Treasurer (if required); and
 - (vii) Seven (7) Ordinary Presbytery Exco Members (if an Assistant Presbytery Treasurer is elected) or eight (8) Ordinary Presbytery Exco Members (if no Assistant Presbytery Treasurer is elected)

- 5.5.2 The Nominations Committee of the Presbytery shall, in accordance with the by-laws laid down by the Nominations Committee, co-ordinate the nomination of candidates from among the Presbytery Delegates for election to the above offices except that only Elders and Deacons with appropriate financial skills and experience shall be eligible to be nominated to the office of the Presbytery Treasurer. Every Presbytery Delegate shall have the right to nominate another Presbytery Delegate into the Presbytery Exco. All nominations must have a proposer and seconder. Election will follow on a simple majority vote of the Presbytery Delegates except where expressly provided otherwise in this Constitution. The term of office of each member of the Presbytery Exco is two (2) years.
- 5.5.3 Of the thirteen (13) members of the Presbytery Exco, seven (7) shall be Ministers or Preachers and six (6) shall be Elders or Deacons.
- 5.5.4 A Presbytery Delegate who is elected as a member of the Presbytery Exco may complete his term of office in the Presbytery even if he ceases to be serving as a Minister, Preacher, Elder or Deacon with a Member in the meantime, but he shall cease to be a member of the Presbytery Exco if he leaves the denomination altogether.

5.6 Presbytery Moderator and Presbytery Vice-Moderator

- 5.6.1 The Presbytery Moderator presides over the meetings of the Presbytery and the meetings of the Presbytery Exco, and represents the Presbytery in exercising its functions.
- 5.6.2 The Presbytery Vice-Moderator assists the Presbytery Moderator and deputises for him in his absence.
- 5.6.3 The Presbytery Moderator must receive two-thirds of the votes cast in order to be elected.
- 5.6.4 The Presbytery Moderator and the Presbytery Vice-Moderator shall each hold office for a term of two (2) years and shall then retire for a minimum period of one (1) term. Notwithstanding the foregoing restriction, the outgoing Presbytery Vice-Moderator may be nominated for election to the office of Presbytery Moderator.
- 5.6.5 Only Ministers who are Singapore citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents are eligible for nomination and election as Presbytery Moderator or Presbytery Vice-Moderator.

5.7 Presbytery Stated Clerk and Assistant Presbytery Stated Clerk

- 5.7.1 The Presbytery Stated Clerk is responsible for all records, except financial records, of the Presbytery. He shall ensure that the minutes of all Presbytery general meetings, the minutes of all Presbytery Exco meetings and other historical records are properly maintained
- 5.7.2 The Assistant Presbytery Stated Clerk is responsible for recording the minutes at the Presbytery general meetings and Presbytery Exco meetings. He shall assist the Presbytery Stated Clerk and deputize for him in his absence.
- 5.7.3 The Presbytery Stated Clerk and Assistant Presbytery Stated Clerk shall each hold office for a term of two (2) years and shall then retire for a minimum period of one (1) term. Notwithstanding the foregoing restriction, the outgoing Assistant Presbytery Stated Clerk may be nominated for election to the office of Presbytery Stated Clerk.

5.8 Presbytery Treasurer

- 5.8.1 The Presbytery Treasurer is responsible for the finances of the Presbytery and shall ensure proper records of all financial transactions of the Presbytery. He shall prepare an annual budget for presentation and approval at the Presbytery AGM.
- 5.8.2 All cheques and other withdrawals from the accounts of the Presbytery must be signed by the Presbytery Treasurer and counter-signed by another member of the Presbytery Exco appointed by the Presbytery Exco in a written resolution.
- 5.8.3 The Presbytery Treasurer shall present financial statements of the Presbytery at the Presbytery Exco meetings. In addition, he shall prepare the financial report at the end of the Financial Year for audit and shall present the audited accounts of the Presbytery at the Presbytery AGM.
- 5.8.4 The Presbytery Treasurer shall hold office for a term of two (2) years and shall be eligible for re-election for a second consecutive term. If the Presbytery Treasurer has served two (2) consecutive terms, he shall then retire for a minimum period of one (1) term.

5.9 Assistant Presbytery Treasurer

- 5.9.1 The Assistant Presbytery Treasurer shall hold office for a term of two (2) years. If the Assistant Presbytery Treasurer has served two (2) consecutive terms, he must retire thereafter for a minimum period of one (1) term.
- 5.9.2 The Assistant Presbytery Treasurer shall assist the Presbytery Treasurer and deputize for the Presbytery Treasurer during his absence.

5.10 Ordinary Presbytery Exco Members

Ordinary Presbytery Exco Members shall assist in the general administration of the Presbytery and perform duties assigned by the Presbytery Exco from time to time.

5.11 Meetings of the Presbytery Exco

- 5.11.1 The Presbytery Exco must meet at least four (4) times a year to transact business. Seven (7) days' written notice of such meeting must be given to the Presbytery Exco members. When necessary a special Presbytery Exco meeting may be called by 2 office-bearers, comprising either the Presbytery Moderator, the Presbytery Vice-Moderator or the Presbytery Stated Clerk, on two (2) days' written notice. The quorum of a meeting of the Presbytery Exco shall be half of the Presbytery Exco members.
- 5.11.2 The quorum of a meeting of the Presbytery Exco shall be 50% of the total number of Presbytery Exco members.
- 5.11.3 If a member of the Presbytery Exco has a direct or indirect interest in a transaction or project or other matter to be discussed at a Presbytery Exco meeting, that member shall disclose the nature of his interest before the discussion of the matter begins. That member shall not participate in the discussion nor vote on the matter, and shall also offer to withdraw from the meeting and the Presbytery Exco shall decide if this offer should be accepted.
- 5.11.4 The Presbytery Exco must have its own minute book which must be presented at the Presbytery AGM and the Synod AGM for examination and recorded in the annual minutes of the Presbytery AGM and the Synod AGM.

5.12 Presbytery committees

The Presbytery Exco shall appoint from amongst its own members a Presbytery Nominations Committee of three (3) members. The Presbytery Exco may appoint other Presbytery committees to deal with Presbytery business.

6. SYNOD

6.1 Structure and organization

The Representatives appointed to attend the general meeting of the Presbyteries collectively constitute the Synod, which is the highest assembly of PCS.

6.2 Functions

The functions of the Synod shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (i) To accomplish the purpose and mission of PCS.
- (ii) To represent PCS in external relations.
- (iii) To facilitate communication among the Presbyteries and between Members.
- (iv) To guide the activities performed by the Presbyteries.
- (v) To promote the devotional life, evangelism and the public affairs of PCS.
- (vi) To exercise control over the property, deeds and records of PCS.

6.3 Delegates to General Meetings of the Synod

6.3.1 Only the Synod Exco and the Presbytery Delegates of the respective Presbyteries (the "Synod Delegates") may attend general meetings of the Synod and each shall have the right to speak, nominate, vote and be elected to hold office in the Synod, save that a Synod Delegate who is an employee of PCS shall not be eligible to hold office in the Synod. Each Synod Delegate shall have one vote.

6.3.2 The Synod Exco may invite individuals to attend general meetings of the Synod as observers, with no right to speak, nominate, vote or be elected to hold office in the Synod Exco. During a general meeting, the Synod Moderator may invite an observer to share his views on an issue being discussed at the general meeting.

6.4 General Meetings of the Synod

- 6.4.1 The highest authority of PCS is vested in a general meeting of the Synod.
- 6.4.2 An annual general meeting of the Synod ("Synod AGM") shall be held by March. The time and place of the Synod AGM shall be decided by the Synod Exco.
- 6.4.3 At least fourteen (14) days' notice in writing shall be given of a Synod AGM. Notice of meeting stating the date, time and place of meeting, and the agenda, shall be sent by the Synod Stated Clerk to all Members.
- 6.4.4 At other times, an extraordinary general meeting of the Synod ("Synod EGM") may, when necessary, be called by the Synod Exco. The Synod Moderator and Synod Stated Clerk shall, at least ten (10) days before the Synod EGM, notify Members in writing of the date, time and place of the Synod EGM and the agenda of the Synod EGM.
- 6.4.5 An EGM may be called at any time at the request in writing of not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total Members. The Synod Exco shall convene the EGM in accordance with Article 6.4.4 within two (2) months of the date of receipt of such request. All costs and expenses occasioned by a Synod EGM convened on a request by Members must be borne collectively by the requisitioning Members.
- 6.4.6 Voting by proxy shall not be allowed at all meetings of the Synod.
- 6.4.7 The following points will be considered at the Synod AGM:
- (i) The previous financial year's accounts and annual report of the Synod Exco;
 - (ii) Where applicable, the election of office-bearers for the following term.
- 6.4.8 Any matter which has not been notified to Members prior to the general meeting may not be added to the agenda during the meeting.
- 6.4.9 Any Member who wishes to place an item on the agenda of a general meeting shall submit his request in writing to the Synod Exco at least seven (7) days before the meeting is held and if the Synod Exco agrees that it is appropriate to include the item in the agenda, the Synod Stated Clerk shall notify the Members in writing of the change in agenda at least two (2) days before the meeting.
- 6.4.10 The quorum of a general meeting of the Synod shall be 30% of the total number of Synod Delegates except where expressly provided otherwise in this Constitution.

6.4.11 In the event that there is no quorum at the commencement of a general meeting of the Synod, the meeting shall be adjourned for seven (7) days or to such other day and at such other time and place as the Synod Exco may decide. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present, those Synod Delegates present shall be deemed a quorum and may transact the business for which the meeting was called except that such meeting shall not have the power to decide on matters concerning the purchase, sale or mortgage of property; or the amendment of the Constitution; or the dissolution of PCS.

6.5 The Office Bearers of PCS – The Synod Executive Committee

6.5.1 The office bearers of PCS are the members of the Executive Committee of the Synod (“Synod Exco”) consisting of the following to be elected at a Synod AGM:

- (i) A Synod Moderator;
- (ii) A Synod Vice-Moderator;
- (iii) A Synod Stated Clerk;
- (iv) An Assistant Clerk (English);
- (v) An Assistant Clerk (Chinese);
- (vi) A Synod Treasurer;
- (vii) An Assistant Synod Treasurer (if required); and
- (viii) Ten (10) Ordinary Synod Exco Members (if an Assistant Synod Treasurer is elected) or eleven (11) Ordinary Synod Exco Members (if no Assistant Synod Treasurer is elected).

6.5.2 The administration of PCS and the Synod shall be entrusted to the Synod Exco. Unless with the prior approval in writing of the Registrar or an Assistant Registrar of Societies, the majority of the Synod Exco members shall be Singapore citizens. In addition, the Synod Moderator, Synod Stated Clerk, Synod Treasurer and their deputies shall be Singapore citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents. Foreign diplomats shall not serve as Synod Exco members.

- 6.5.3 The Nominations Committee of the Synod shall, in accordance with the by-laws laid down by the Nominations Committee, co-ordinate the nomination of candidates from among the Synod Delegates for election to the above offices except that only Elders and Deacons with appropriate financial skills and experience shall be eligible to be nominated to the office of the Synod Treasurer. Each Synod Delegate shall have the right to nominate another Synod Delegate into the Synod Exco. All nominations shall have a proposer and seconder. Election will follow on a simple majority vote of the Synod Delegates except where expressly provided otherwise in this Constitution. The term of office of each member of the Synod Exco is two (2) years.
- 6.5.4 Of the seventeen (17) members of the Synod Exco, nine (9) shall be Ministers or Preachers and eight (8) shall be Elders or Deacons, elected from among the members of the Synod.
- 6.5.5 A Synod Delegate who is elected as a member of the Synod Exco may complete his term of office in the Synod even if he ceases to be serving as a Minister, Preacher, Elder or Deacon with a Member in the meantime, but he shall cease to be a member of the Synod Exco if he leaves the denomination altogether.
- 6.5.6 The quorum of a meeting of the Synod Exco shall be 50% of the total number of Synod Exco members.
- 6.5.7 Any changes to the Synod Exco shall be notified to the Registry of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities within two (2) weeks of the change.
- 6.5.8 If a member of the Synod Exco has a direct or indirect interest in a transaction or project or other matter to be discussed at a Synod Exco meeting, that member shall disclose the nature of his interest before the discussion of the matter begins. That member shall not participate in the discussion nor vote on the matter, and shall also offer to withdraw from the meeting and the Synod Exco shall decide if this offer should be accepted.

6.6 Synod Moderator and Synod Vice-Moderator

- 6.6.1 The Synod Moderator presides over the meetings of the Synod and the meetings of the Synod Exco, and represents PCS in its dealings with outside persons.
- 6.6.2 The Synod Vice-Moderator assists the Synod Moderator and deputizes for him in his absence.
- 6.6.3 The Synod Moderator must receive two-thirds of the votes cast in order to be elected.

- 6.6.4 The Synod Moderator and the Synod Vice-Moderator shall each hold office for a term of two (2) years and shall then retire for a minimum period of one (1) term. Notwithstanding the foregoing restriction, the outgoing Synod Vice-Moderator may be nominated for election to the office of Synod Moderator.
- 6.6.5 Only Ministers who are Singapore citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents are eligible for nomination and election as Synod Moderator or Synod Vice-Moderator.

6.7 Synod Stated Clerk and Assistant Clerks

- 6.7.1 The Synod Stated Clerk is responsible for all records, except financial records, of the Synod. He shall ensure that the minutes of all Synod general meetings, the minutes of all Synod Exco meetings and other historical records are properly maintained. He shall maintain an up-to-date Register of Members at all times.
- 6.7.2 The Assistant Clerks are responsible for recording the minutes at the Synod General meetings and Synod Exco meetings. They shall assist the Synod Stated Clerk and deputize for him in his absence.
- 6.7.3 The Synod Stated Clerk and Assistant Clerks shall each hold office for a term of two (2) years and shall then retire for a minimum period of one (1) term. Notwithstanding the foregoing restriction, an outgoing Assistant Clerk may be nominated for election to the office of Synod Stated Clerk.

6.8 Synod Treasurer

- 6.8.1 The Synod Treasurer is responsible for the finances of the Synod and shall maintain proper record of all financial transactions of the Synod. He shall prepare an annual budget for presentation and approval by the Synod Delegates at the Synod AGM.
- 6.8.2 The Synod Treasurer shall present financial statements of the Synod at the Synod Exco meetings. In addition, he shall prepare the financial report at the end of the Financial Year for audit and shall present the audited accounts of the Synod to the Synod Delegates at the Synod AGM.
- 6.8.3 All cheques and other withdrawals from the accounts of PCS must be signed by the Synod Treasurer and counter-signed by another member of the Synod Exco appointed by the Synod Exco in a written resolution.

6.8.4 The Synod Treasurer shall hold office for a term of two (2) years and shall be eligible for re-election for a second consecutive term. If the Synod Treasurer has served two (2) consecutive terms, he shall then retire for a minimum period of one (1) term.

6.9 Assistant Synod Treasurer

6.9.1 The Assistant Synod Treasurer shall hold office for a term of two (2) years. If the Assistant Synod Treasurer has served two (2) consecutive terms, he must retire thereafter for a minimum period of one (1) term.

6.9.2 The Assistant Synod Treasurer shall assist the Synod Treasurer and deputize for the Synod Treasurer during his absence.

6.10 Ordinary Synod Exco Members

Ordinary Synod Exco Members shall assist in the general administration of the Synod and perform duties assigned by the Synod Exco from time to time.

6.11 Powers and Responsibilities of the Synod Exco

6.11.1 When the general meeting of the Synod is not sitting, the Synod Exco shall perform the following:

- (i) Carry out the decisions of the Synod;
- (ii) Supervise the functioning of all Synod Committees;
- (iii) Organize and supervise the daily activities of PCS; and
- (iv) Deal with any urgent business.

6.11.2 Subject to the approval of the Delegates at a general meeting, the Synod Exco shall have the powers to borrow or raise funds on behalf of PCS for the purposes of PCS and to mortgage or charge its undertakings and property, or any part thereof, whether outright or as security for any debt, liability or obligation of PCS.

6.11.3 The Synod Exco shall represent PCS in external relations.

6.12 Meetings of Synod Exco

- 6.12.1 The Synod Exco must meet at least four (4) times a year to transact business. Seven (7) days' written notice of such meeting must be given to the Synod Exco members. When necessary a special Synod Exco meeting may be called by two office-bearers, comprising, either the Synod Moderator, the Synod Vice-Moderator or the Synod Stated Clerk, on two (2) days' written notice. The quorum of a meeting of the Synod Exco shall be half of the Synod Exco members.
- 6.12.2 The Synod Exco must have its own minute book, which must be presented to the Synod AGM for examination and recorded in the annual minutes of the Synod AGM.

6.13 Synod Committees

- 6.13.1 The Synod Exco shall have power to appoint the following Synod Committees:
- (i) Human Resource Committee;
 - (ii) Ministers & Preachers Committee;
 - (iii) Asset Management Committee;
 - (iv) Audit Committee;
 - (v) Nominations Committee; and
 - (vi) Such other Synod Committees as the Synod Exco deems necessary.
- 6.13.2 The Human Resource Committee, the Ministers & Preachers Committee, the Asset Management Committee, the Audit Committee and the Nominations Committee shall be chaired by a Synod Exco member.

7. PREACHERS AND MINISTERS

- 7.1 A Preacher who has been invited by a Member to serve as a Preacher must be licensed by the relevant Presbytery in accordance with the criteria for appointment and licensing set out in the by-laws before he can be invited to serve with the Member. The terms of engagement shall be agreed between the Preacher and the Member and shall be set out in a contract of employment.

- 7.2 A Minister who has been invited by a Member to serve as the Senior Minister or an Associate Minister of the Member must be ordained or licensed by the relevant Presbytery, or if he was ordained in another denomination or in a country outside of Singapore, has been examined and accepted by PCS to serve as a Minister in accordance with the criteria for appointment and licensing set out in the by-laws before he can be called to serve with the Member. The terms of engagement shall be agreed between the Minister and the Member and shall be set out in a contract of employment.
- 7.3 A Minister of a Member may, with the consent of the Member, serve as an interim-Senior Minister of another Member while the latter seeks to invite a Minister to serve as its Senior Minister.
- 7.4 There has been increasing confusion and distortion of human sexuality in our society. As such, alternative lifestyles and sexual conduct that are contrary to Biblical teaching have been gradually gaining acceptance in our society and PCS must watch against the tolerance and acceptance of such practices within PCS. PCS, as instructed by Scriptures, uphold the following truths and practices:
- 7.4.1 That humanity has been created in the image of God, as male and female, to the exclusion of all others (Genesis 1:26-28);
 - 7.4.2 A substantive expression of the image of God is the marriage institution, defined clearly and uniquely as a lifelong monogamous and exclusive union between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:15-24; Matthew 19:3-9);
 - 7.4.3 That any form of sexual expression before and outside of marriage is forbidden and is reckoned as sin (1 Corinthians 6:9-20);
 - 7.4.4 That all Ministers and Preachers and those applying to be appointed as Ministers or Preachers must adhere to, practise and promote these biblical teachings on sexuality, sexual conduct and marriage;
 - 7.4.5 That Ministers and Preachers, together with their Session, or, in the absence of a Session, their Elders and Deacons Court (EDC), shall ensure that all ministry leaders and church staff must adhere to, practise and promote these biblical teachings on sexuality, sexual conduct and marriage;
 - 7.4.6 That Ministers and Preachers, together with their Session, or, in the absence of a Session, their Elders and Deacons Court (EDC), shall exhort their congregants to adhere to and practise the biblical teaching on sexuality, sexual conduct and marriage as faithful witnesses of Christ; and

- 7.4.7 That all forms of sexual misconduct dishonors God and should not be condoned. Any form of sexual misconduct by a communicant member shall be dealt with by the relevant Member through church discipline in accordance with its constitution and by-laws.

8. BY-LAWS

The Synod Exco may enact by-laws not inconsistent with this Constitution for, but not limited to, the following matters:

- (i) To give effect to the provisions of this Constitution;
- (ii) To regulate meetings in PCS;
- (iii) To regulate the functions and procedures of PCS;
- (iv) To regulate the proper keeping of the books and the accounts of PCS;
- (v) To regulate the administration of the activities of PCS;
- (vi) To provide for the appointment of Church staff and other personnel;
- (vii) To provide for all matters for the proper functioning of PCS.

9. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

PCS shall not amend the Constitution without the prior approval in writing of the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities. No additions, alterations or deletions shall be made to the Constitution unless the same shall have been previously submitted to and approved by at least two-thirds of the votes of the Synod Delegates present at a general meeting of the Synod. The quorum of a general meeting of the Synod where an amendment to the Constitution is tabled shall be 50% of the total number of Synod Delegates.

10. INTERPRETATION

10.1 In the event of any question or matter arising out of a dispute or difference in meaning of any point in this Constitution or arising out of any point which is not expressly provided for in this Constitution, the Synod Exco shall have power to use its own discretion. The decision of the Synod Exco shall be final unless it is reversed at a general meeting of the Synod.

10.2 In the event of any apparent conflict between the English version of this Constitution and any other translation of it, the meaning as conveyed by the English version shall prevail.

11. TRUSTEES

11.1 If PCS at any time acquires any immovable property, such property shall be vested in trustees, subject to a declaration of trust.

11.2 PCS shall appoint either a trust corporation or not more than five (5) and not less than three (3) individuals, who shall be Ministers, Preachers Elders or Deacons, to act as trustees of PCS. The trustees of PCS:

- (i) shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the Synod Delegates present and voting at a general meeting of the Synod;
- (ii) shall not affect any sale or mortgage of property unless it has been instructed by the Synod Exco to do so, such instructions to be made, where the beneficiary is PCS, after two-thirds of the Synod Delegates present at a general meeting of the Synod have voted in favor of the sale or mortgage and, where the beneficiary is a Member, after two-thirds of the members of the Member present at a general meeting of the Member have voted in favor of the sale or mortgage. The quorum of a general meeting where the sale or mortgage of trust property is tabled shall be 50% of the total number of Synod Delegates.

11.3 PCS may terminate a trustee's appointment:

- (i) if the trustee, being a trust corporation, is wound up or threatened with winding up proceedings;
- (ii) if the trustee is guilty of misconduct of such a kind as to render it undesirable for him to continue as a trustee;
- (iii) if the trustee dies or becomes a lunatic or of unsound mind;
- (iv) if the trustee is absent from the Republic of Singapore for a period of more than one year;
- (v) if the trustee becomes bankrupt;
- (vi) if the trustee ceases to be a member of any Member; or
- (vii) if the trustee is incapacitated for any reason.

- 11.4 Notice of any proposal to remove a trustee from his trusteeship or to appoint a new trustee to fill a vacancy must be given to Synod Delegates at least fourteen (14) days before the general meeting at which such proposal is tabled. The result of the proposal shall be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.
- 11.5 The address of each immovable property, name of each trustee and any subsequent change to the foregoing must be notified to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities.

12. AUDIT & FINANCIAL YEAR

- 12.1 A firm of Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants shall be appointed as Auditors at each Synod AGM for a term of one year and shall be eligible for reappointment.
- 12.2 They:
- (i) will be required to audit each year's accounts and present a report upon them to the Synod AGM; and
 - (ii) may be required by the Synod Exco to audit PCS's accounts for any period within their tenure of office at any date and make a report to the Synod Exco.
- 12.3 The financial year shall be from 1 January to 31 December.

13. PROHIBITIONS

- 13.1 The introduction of gambling, idolatry, homosexual activities, drug taking, vice and such other illicit activities into PCS is prohibited. All such activities, excluding the promotion or conduct of a private lottery which has been permitted under the Private Lotteries Act Cap 250, is forbidden on PCS' premises.
- 13.2 The funds of PCS shall not be used to pay the fines of Members who have been convicted in a court of law.
- 13.3 PCS shall not engage in any trade union activity as defined in any written law relating to trade unions for the time being in force in Singapore.

- 13.4 PCS shall not indulge in any political activity or allow its funds and/or premises to be used for political purposes.
- 13.5 PCS shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to its members or not, in the name of PCS or its office-bearers, Synod Exco or Members unless with the prior approval of the relevant authorities.
- 13.6 PCS shall not raise funds from the public for whatever purposes without the prior approval in writing of the Assistant Director Operations, Licensing Division, Singapore Police Force and other relevant authorities, where necessary.
- 13.7 PCS shall not engage in activities outside Singapore which are not in accordance with the laws of the foreign country.
- 13.8 PCS shall not engage in any activities that may undermine the racial or religious harmony in Singapore.

14. VISITORS AND GUESTS

Visitors and guests may be admitted into the premises of PCS but they shall not be admitted into the privileges of PCS. All visitors and guests shall abide by the rules and regulations of PCS.

15. DISPUTES

- 15.1 If a matter of dispute occurs within PCS, it must be dealt with progressively at each level in accordance with this Constitution and the by-laws and may not bypass any level.
- 15.2 The highest governing body of each Member (namely, the Session or the Elders and Deacons Court) constitutes the first level for the settlement of all matters of dispute involving individual church members of a Member, or matters between individual church members and the Ministers or Preachers of a Member. A party who disagrees with the decision of the Session/Elders and Deacons Court may appeal to the relevant Presbytery.

- 15.3 The Presbytery constitutes the second level for the settlement of all matters of dispute between members of the Presbytery, and all appeals against a decision of the Session/Elders and Deacons Court. A party who disagrees with the decision of the Presbytery may appeal to the Synod.
- 15.4 The Synod constitutes the third and final level for the settlement of all matters of dispute between one Presbytery and another and all appeals against a decision of the Presbytery.
- 15.5 While any such dispute is pending a resolution, the parties involved in the dispute shall not refer the matter or any part thereof to the secular courts and shall not disclose, publicize or publish reports on the matter to the public.
- 15.6 An individual involved in the dispute, if holding a position in the body charged with resolving the dispute, shall abstain from deciding the matter, and if it is considered necessary, must withdraw from the meetings.
- 15.7 Scriptural and constitutional laws shall be applied to resolve all disputes to be decided hereunder. The decision of the Synod shall be final.

16. CESSATION OF CHARITY STATUS

In the event that PCS ceases to be a registered charity under the Charities Act or being dissolved as provide above, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of P shall be fully discharged, and the remaining funds will be contributed to charitable organizations with similar objectives in Singapore which are registered under the Charities Act as the members of PCS may determine at the General Meeting, unless otherwise allowed by the Commissioner of Charities.

17. DISSOLUTION

- 17.1 PCS may not be dissolved, except with the consent of not less than two-thirds of the total Synod Delegates present at a general meeting of the Synod convened for this purpose. The quorum of a general meeting of the Synod where the dissolution of PCS is tabled shall be 50% of the total number of Synod Delegates.

- 17.2 In the event of PCS ceases to be a registered charity under the Charities Act or being dissolved as provided above, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of PCS shall be fully discharged, and all its remaining properties, funds, bank deposits, and cash shall be donated to charitable organizations with similar objectives in Singapore which are registered under the Charities Act (Cap. 37) as the Members may determine at the general meeting.
- 17.3 A Certificate of Dissolution shall be given to the Registrar of Societies and the Commissioner of Charities within seven (7) days of the dissolution.

18. CONFLICT OF INTEREST CLAUSES

- 18.1 Whenever a member of the Board/Management Committee is in any way, directly or indirectly, has an interest in a transaction or project or other matter to be discussed at a meeting, the member shall disclose the nature of his interest before the discussion on the matter begins.
- 18.2 The member concerned should not participate in the discussion or vote on the matter, and should also offer to withdraw from the meeting and the Board/Management Committee shall decide if this should be accepted.

19. DEFINITIONS

- 19.1 In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed against it:

“Applicant” means an independently registered or incorporated Presbyterian Church that submits an application in accordance with Article 4.2 to become a Member of PCS;

“Co-Workers” means retired Ministers and Ministers and Preachers who are serving in seminaries or para-church organizations;

“Elders and Deacons Court” means the highest governing body of a Member composed of the Senior Minister, the Associate Ministers and a minimum of two (2) Serving Elders and two (2) Deacons;

“Financial Year” means the period from 1 January to 31 December;

“Member” means a Presbyterian Church that has been accepted as a member of PCS in accordance with Article 4.2;

“Minister” means a Preacher who has been ordained or licensed as a Minister by the relevant Presbytery, or a Minister who was ordained in another country and has been examined and accepted by PCS to serve as a Minister;

“Preacher” means a graduate of a recognized theological college who has been licensed as a Preacher by the relevant Presbytery;

“Presbytery” means a court composed of the Representatives of a group of Members;

“Presbytery Delegates” means the Presbytery Exco and the Representatives of members of a Presbytery, as described in Article 5.3.1;

“Representatives” means those persons described in Article 4.4.1 appointed by a Member to represent it at the general meetings of the Presbytery;

“Session” means the highest governing body of a Member composed of the Senior Minister, the Associate Ministers and a minimum of two (2) Serving Elders;

“Synod” means the highest assembly of PCS attended by all the Representatives of the Members of PCS;

“Synod Delegates” means the Synod Exco and the Presbytery Delegates of the respective Presbyteries, as described in Article 6.3.1.

- 19.2 Words importing the singular shall include the plural, words importing one gender shall include the other gender, and words importing a person shall include a firm and corporation and vice-versa.