

# **Stoneygate Baptist Church | Supplementary Governance Document**

Adopted by the approval of the Church Members' Meeting on 17 November 2024

This document has been produced to supplement the Constitution adopted by Stoneygate Baptist Church on 17 November 2024, to add detail to those areas of governance in which the church has liberty to apply local tradition and practice.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

1. Those seeking membership shall speak to the Minister or another Charity Trustee. They will be provided with a copy of the Governing Documents, and the Charity Trustees will normally appoint visitors to meet with them, before bringing their name before a Church Meeting, where the Church Members shall be invited to receive them into membership. Members of other churches may be asked for a letter of transfer. Those who are received into membership will be welcomed at the first convenient communion service.
2. All Church Members shall be encouraged to give due consideration to baptism.
3. In addition to the Membership List, the Church shall also maintain a Friends List for those who do not regularly attend worship and are not Church Members but wish to remain associated with the church.
4. If a Church Member is absent from worship for twelve months, and there is no meaningful communication with the Church, they may be removed from the Membership List.

## **MEETINGS**

1. The usual process for making decisions on matters relating to the Church is the consensus or majority vote of the Members gathered at a Church Meeting.
2. Church Members' Meetings and Trustee Meetings shall be held monthly as far as practical.
3. The Annual Church Members' Meeting (known as the AGM) shall usually be held in March.
4. Matters for Special Church Meetings shall include any alteration to the Trust Deeds or Governing Documents, and the appointment of new Property Trustees, in addition to those matters stated in the Constitution.
5. For Special Church Meetings, a higher quorum may be agreed in advance.
6. Matters raised as Any Other Business may be deferred to the next meeting at the request of one third of members present at the meeting, or at the discretion of the chairperson.
7. All members may vote in church meetings, there is no minimum voting age.

## **LEADERSHIP**

1. The Church Secretary and Church Treasurer shall be elected directly from the membership, alongside the Deacons and according to the rules for appointing Charity Trustees.
2. There shall usually be one Deacon for every ten members, up to a maximum of nine Deacons.
3. Charity Trustees (except for those in ministerial office) shall have been a Church Member for at least a year before election.
4. The Charity Trustees (i.e. Minister(s), Secretary, Treasurer and Deacons) shall be collectively known as the Diaconate.
5. If a Charity Trustee (except for those in ministerial office) ceases to hold office at any point in their term, a new Trustee may be appointed by the Church Members at the next appropriate Church Meeting, subject to the rules for appointing Charity Trustees.