

Article 1: Name

The Chinese name of this church is “格拉斯哥華人基督教會.” The English name is Glasgow Chinese Christian Church, hereafter referred to as “the Church.”

Article 2: Aims

The aims of the church are as follows:

- 2.1. To preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ primarily to ethnic Chinese in and around Glasgow areas.
- 2.2. To build one another up in spiritual maturity according to the teachings of the Bible.
- 2.3. To meet together regularly for worship, prayer, the ministry of God’s Word and fellowship.
- 2.4. To support the worldwide mission of Christ’s church.
- 2.5. To co-operate with other Christian churches and organisations that share the general aims and belief of the Church, and especially with the Chinese Overseas Christian Mission (C.O.C.M.) and other Chinese Christian churches and fellowships. Such co-operation will not compromise the autonomy of the Church.

Article 3: Doctrinal Basis

The following doctrinal basis is the same as stated in the Article I (iii) of the Glasgow Chinese Christian Fellowship Constitution.

- 3.1 Divine inspiration and infallibility of the Holy Scriptures as originally given and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (II Timothy 3: 16-17)
- 3.2 Belief in the unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead. (II Cor. 13:14; Matt. 28:19; John 14: 11)
- 3.3 Universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the Fall, rendering man subject to God’s wrath and condemnation. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)
- 3.4 Redemption from guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death (as our representative and substitute) of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God. (I Peter 2:24)
- 3.5 The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (I Cor. 15:3-4)
- 3.6 The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make the death of Jesus Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ. (John 3:5-6, 16:8-11)
- 3.7 The indwelling work of the Holy Spirit in the believer. (John 14:17; I Cor. 6:19)
- 3.8 The Church is a company of all true believers in heaven and on earth and finds expression in the life of the local church which is a society of redeemed men and women who meet for common worship to God, mutual edification and witness to the Gospel. (Eph. 1:3-6; I Cor. 12:12-14)
- 3.9 The expectation of the personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:11; John 14:3)

3.10 The eternal bliss of all joined to Christ by faith and the eternal loss of all who rejected Him. (John 17:24; 14:3; 3:36; I Cor. 15:20-23)

Article 4: Membership

- 4.1. Membership is open to all who have experienced the new birth through repentance of sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, have been baptised, and agree to uphold the Church Constitution.
- 4.2. Application for church membership shall be submitted in writing on prescribed forms to the Council for approval.
- 4.3. Members are entitled to the following privileges:
 - 4.3.1. Voting at General Meetings of the Church.
 - 4.3.2. Holding office in the Church.
 - 4.3.3. Submitting proposals in writing at any time for consideration of the Council.
 - 4.3.4. Requesting the Council to Convene an Extraordinary General Meeting for stated purposes. (cf. Article 5.2).
- 4.4. Membership involves the responsibility to be actively involved in fulfilling the aims of the Church (Article 2).
- 4.5. If a member is found to live or teach contrary to the Doctrinal Basis of the Church, the member shall be admonished in love. If there is no repentance, membership shall be suspended or terminated by the Council.

4.6. Members who move away from the Glasgow area such as to be unable to carry out the duties of membership shall be deemed by the Council to be voluntarily withdrawn from the membership from the date of departure. They may apply to the Council for transfer to the list of “Corresponding Members.”

Article 5: General Meetings of the Church

- 5.1. The Annual General Meeting of the Church shall take place in April each year to receive and approve the annual report of the Council, to receive the report of the Church Auditor, to approve the annual budget for the coming financial year.
- 5.2. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Church may be called by the Council to discuss urgent Church business. Any Church member may submit a request to the Council for an Extraordinary General Meeting for stated purposes. Such a request will be honoured when presented in writing bearing the signatures of at least one third of the total membership.
- 5.3. Notice of every General Meeting and details of the agenda shall be given to the Church at the two Sunday services immediately prior to such meetings.
- 5.4. The quorum of all General Meetings shall be no less than one half of the Church Membership.
- 5.5. All motions shall be carried by a simple majority of the members present, except in the case of the employment, re-appointment or dismissal of Pastors, in which case a two-third majority in a secret ballot of members present is required.

Article 6 ²The Council

- 6.1. The Council is the highest institution of the church under the General Meeting, and shall be responsible for the administration of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Church.
- 6.2. The Council shall consist of not less than five and not more than 15 members who shall be Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses of the Church who shall have been nominated, elected and consecrated in accordance with the Scriptures.
- 6.3. The Chairman of the Council shall be appointed by the Council. Under normal situation the Chairman should be an elder of the church. The Chairman shall serve the term of two years whereupon he shall retire but shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- 6.4. The Council shall in addition to the Chairman appoint among themselves a Secretary and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be honorary. The Secretary and Treasurer shall serve the term of two years whereupon they shall retire but shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- 6.5. Pastors are “associate members.” As associate members, Pastors have no general voting rights in the Council, except in cases relating to the spiritual ministry and discipline of the church, as well as the appointment of leaders to the Pastoral and Evangelistic Board (PEB).
- 6.6. The Council shall be responsible for:
 - 6.6.1. planning, organising and conducting church activities and services in order to promote the spiritual growth of the church;
 - 6.6.2. making and amending rules regulating the conduct of church activities;
 - 6.6.3. maintaining the moral and spiritual discipline of the church among church members with the active leadership of pastors and elders—the Council Chairman and the pastors in particular shall take the lead in investigating and handling cases relating to church discipline;
 - 6.6.4. appointing leaders of major church groups to the Pastoral and Evangelistic Board (PEB) with the advice of pastors;
 - 6.6.5. delegating responsibilities (6.6.1.) and (6.6.2.) to the PEB under normal situations;
 - 6.6.6. accounting for the moneys received and expended;
 - 6.6.7. appointing trustees who shall be members of Council;
 - 6.6.8. employment of remunerated Staff Workers;
 - 6.6.9. transacting any other business affecting the Church;
 - 6.6.10. calling the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the church, setting agenda for the AGM, and giving annual report to all members of the church during the AGM.
- 6.7. Council shall meet regularly (at least meeting once every two months), but special meetings may be convened at the request of a member of the Council. Three members shall form a quorum.

6.8. No motion shall be carried unless a majority of the members present vote in its favour. No proxy shall be accepted.

Article 7 : The Pastoral and Evangelistic Board (PEB)

7.1. The PEB shall be chaired by the pastor of the church. In the case of more than one pastor, the chairperson shall be appointed by the Council from among the pastors. All members of the PEB shall be members of the church.

7.2. Council members are ex officio members, who shall have voting rights.

7.3. Other members of the PEB shall include:

7.3.1. a secretary appointed by the PEB;

7.3.2. members of the Council appointed by the Council;

7.3.3. leaders of major church groups appointed by the Council and pastors.

7.4. All appointed PEB members shall have voting rights. No motion shall be carried unless a simple majority of the members present votes in its favour.

7.5. Under the active leadership of the pastor, the PEB shall be responsible for:

7.5.1. the spiritual growth of the church;

7.5.2. promoting evangelism;

7.5.3. planning, organising and conducting church activities and services;

7.5.4. making and amending rules regulating the conduct of church activities, in order to promote the spiritual growth of the church.

7.6. The PEB shall meet regularly (at least once a month) to pray, plan, review and discuss matters relating to the spiritual growth of the church and the spreading of the gospel.

7.7. All aspects of the church's spiritual ministries and activities, including that of the Mandarin Sunday Service, Cantonese Sunday Service, English Sunday Service, Fellowships, Sunday Schools, Women's Group etc., shall be under the direction of the PEB.

7.8. The PEB shall be accountable to the Council.

Article 8: Church Officers Appointments

8.1 Pastors

8.1.1. The Church appoints one or more Pastors to preach and teach the Word of God, to pastor church members and promote the spiritual development of the Church, to administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, to guard the faith and maintain church order and discipline with the Council.

8.1.2. The recommendation to appoint, re-appoint or dismiss a Pastor shall be made by the Council and approved by the

Members through a resolution at a Church General Meeting.

8.1.3. A Pastor shall be appointed to serve a term not exceeding five years, which may then be renewed.

8.2. Elders

8.2.1 Elders shall be appointed in accordance with the principles of Scripture (see especially 1 Timothy 3: 1-7 and Titus 1: 6-9).

8.2.2 The recommendation to appoint or dismiss Elders shall be made by the Council and approved by the Church through a resolution at a General Meeting.

8.2.3 Elders shall each be appointed to serve a life term, to be retired at the age of 70.

8.2.4 Elders shall be responsible for preserving the purity of the Church's doctrine, and the maintenance of Church discipline. They shall also assist the Pastor in his spiritual duty.

8.2.5 Any person, being an Elder of the Church, who for any reason ceases to be a member of the Church or absents himself from UK continuously for a year or more shall automatically cease to be an Elder of the Church.

8.3. Deacons

8.3.1 Deacons shall be appointed in accordance with the principles of Scripture (see especially Acts 6: 1-7 and 1 Timothy 3: 8-13).

8.3.2 The recommendation to appoint or dismiss Deacons shall be made by the Council and approved by the Church through a resolution at a General Meeting.

8.3.3 Deacons shall each be appointed to serve a term of two years, with the appointment being renewable at the end of the term.

8.3.4 Deacons shall be responsible for the general administration of the Church. The Council may appoint deacons to serve in any Church offices as deemed necessary for the work of the Church.

8.3.5 Any person, being a Deacon of the Church, who for any reason ceases to be a member of the Church or absents himself from UK continuously for a year or more, shall automatically cease to be a Deacon of the Church.

8.4. Council Offices

8.4.1. All elected Elders or Deacons shall automatically become Council members

8.4.2. The Council shall appoint from within itself a Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer to serve a term of two years, with the appointment being renewable at the end of the term.

8.4.3. The Council Chairman shall be responsible for the preparation of the agenda for and the chairing of all Council and Church Meetings.

- 8.4.4. The Council Secretary shall be responsible for the writing of the minutes of all Council and Church General Meetings, and dealing with the notices, memoranda, correspondence and records of the Church.
- 8.4.5. The Council Treasurer shall be responsible for managing the finances, maintaining proper books of accounts, preparing consolidated quarterly financial reports and annual budgets of the Church.
- 8.4.6. Any person, being a member of the Council, who for any reason ceases to be a member of the Church or absents himself from UK continuously for a year or more shall automatically cease to be a member of the Council.

Article 9: Church Finances

- 9.1. The financial year shall run from 1st April to 31st March.
- 9.2. The Church shall be registered as a Charity-at-law.
- 9.3. The Council Treasurer will administer all funds and present accounts at the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.4. If an audit is required under any statutory provisions or if the Council otherwise think fit, the Council shall ensure that an audit of such accounts is carried out by a Registered Auditor.

Article 10: Board of Trustees

- 10.1. The Council shall appoint a Board of Trustees, with Council Chairman, Secretary and Treasure being ex officio members.

- 10.2. All properties of the Church shall be vested in and held by the Board of Trustees on behalf and for the benefits of the Church.
- 10.3. The decision to lease, purchase, develop, mortgage, and substantially alter or dispose of any church property shall be recommended by the Board and approved by resolution at a General Meeting of the Church.

Article 11: The Chinese School

- 11.1. The full name of the Chinese School is **Glasgow Chinese Christian Church Chinese School**, abbreviated **GCCCCS** and shall be referred to as 'the School'.
- 11.2. The School is an extension of the ministry of the Glasgow Chinese Christian Church. It is founded in order to serve the local Chinese people by teaching their children the Chinese language and Chinese culture. The School also acts a bridge for reaching out the Chinese community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ as stated in Article 2.1.
- 11.3. The School shall be directly accountable to the Council.
- 11.4. The affairs of the School shall be run by the School Executive Committee (SEC)

SEC shall be directly accountable to the Council.
SEC members are appointed by the Council.

All members of the SEC shall hold office for two years when they shall retire, but shall be eligible for reappointment.

Members of the SEC shall consist of not less than five and not more than nine persons including:

- Head teacher (Chair-person)
- Assistant Head teacher (in charge of School administration)
- Assistant Head teacher (in charge of religious and moral education)
- Secretary / General Affairs Coordinator
- Treasurer

The SEC shall be responsible for:

- planning, organising, managing and conducting school affairs;
- making and amending rules of the school;
- managing, using, and accounting for the finance of the school;

11.5. Finance.

- The finance of the school shall be supported by school fees, offerings, donations, and funds granted by external bodies or organisations.
- The application and acceptance of external funds shall be approved by the Council.
- The income of the school shall be wholly, exclusively and necessarily expended on the School for the furtherance of its objectives. No income of the School shall be given to the Church.

- The School shall have its own bank account independent of the account of the Church.
- The income and expenditure account of the School shall be audited annually.

11.6. Dissolution

If upon the dissolution of the School there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property or assets whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the School, or be given to the Church, but shall be given or transferred to some institution or institutions having charitable objectives similar to the objectives of the School to be determined by the Council.

Article 12: Amendments to the Constitution

- 12.1. Proposed amendments to the Constitution may be submitted in writing to the Council if signed by one-third of the Members of the Church.
- 12.2. At least fourteen days must be given of any General Meeting called to consider altering the Constitution, with the proposed amendments being clearly displaced at the normal meeting place of the Church.
- 12.3. No alteration may be made to the Constitution without the approval of at least three-quarters of the Members present at two General Meetings held not less than one month apart.

Article 13: Dissolution of the Church

- 13.1. The Church may be dissolved only by a resolution of a General Meeting with the approval of three-quarters of the Church Membership.
- 13.2. If upon the dissolution of the Church there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property or assets whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Church, but shall be given or transferred to some institution or institutions having charitable objectives similar to the objectives of the Church to be determined by the General Meeting.