

OREWA BAPTIST CHURCH

CONSTITUTION

(REVISED 27 MAY 2018)

(CURRENT REVISION IN PROGRESS JULY 2025)

DRAFT

OREWA BAPTIST CHURCH

1. THE CHURCH

1.1 The name of the church is the Orewa Baptist Church.

1.2 The church is a community of those who believe in God the Father, in God the Son Jesus Christ and in God the Holy Spirit – one God; who are repentant of their sin and who have been saved by personal faith in Jesus Christ through his atoning death and resurrection; who publicly proclaim their faith and are committed to the church's vision, aims and functions.

1.3 The church believes in: (Articles of faith as listed in the Baptist Union Incorporation Act 1923).

1.3.1 The inspiration of the Bible and its authority in all matters of faith and practice.

1.3.2 The true humanity and Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1.3.3 The atonement made by our Lord on the Cross for the sin of the world.

1.3.4 Salvation by faith in Christ alone.

1.3.5 Membership in the Christian Church for those who have received salvation.

1.3.6 The immersion of believers as the only scriptural form of baptism.

2. AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

2.1 To meet regularly for worship, prayer, teaching, encouragement and fellowship.

2.2 To follow and execute the vision and mission of Orewa Baptist Church as approved by the Elders and presented to the membership.

2.3 To engage in the task of mission, principally within New Zealand but also overseas.

2.4 To express God's love to the community through ministries of the Word and practical care.

2.5 In every possible way to seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ and bring them into His church.

3. STRUCTURE

3.1 The church is an autonomous body governed through its members operating under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The church is a member of the Baptist Union of New Zealand, which was established by the Baptist Union Incorporation Act 1923.

3.2 The Members shall delegate authority for spiritual oversight and church governance to the Elders.

3.3 The Elders shall delegate authority for matters of spiritual and administrative governance to an Executive Team. The Elders shall determine the Executive Team Role and Responsibilities. This delegation does not constitute a transfer of authority, which always remains with the Elders.

3.4 The Executive Team shall be convened by the Senior Pastor and consist of members who have been ratified by the Elders.

3.5 Church members shall serve in various areas of service through the establishment of Ministry Teams that will operate under delegated authority from the Executive Team.

3.7 The church shall at all times maintain registration as a charity under the Charities Act 2005.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Any person who confesses faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who has been baptised by immersion as a believer, and who shows evidence of following Christ in newness of life may apply to become a church member.

4.1.1 Any believer who desires to be baptised but, due to physical disability (or other special reason), is prevented from immersion baptism may apply to the Elders for membership on the same basis as baptised believers.

4.1.2 All current members received into membership under previous constitutions of this church have recognition as members of the Orewa Baptist Church.

4.2 Application for membership will result in a membership interview by the Pastors, Elders or other authorised persons who shall be appointed by the Elders for that specific role. Those applying for membership will be given a copy of the Member's Pledge for acceptance (refer Appendix B). After the interview, the Pastoral Staff and Elders will consider and decide upon the application.

4.2.1 The church members shall be advised of the membership application by notice in the church newsletter for two weeks. If no reasons are received against the person being admitted as a member the applicant shall be received into membership thereafter.

4.3 A membership roll shall be kept. The roll shall be reviewed annually by staff and Elders. Any member who has ceased to attend the church shall be contacted, where possible, and given the opportunity to comment. Depending on the outcome, membership may be revoked.

4.4 Resolution of differences and church discipline

4.4.1 In cases of difference between church members, the principles set out in Matthew 18:15 – 17 shall be followed. The Elders shall have the power to admonish, suspend or expel a member for misconduct.

4.4.2 If an allegation of conduct inconsistent with the teaching of scripture is received, the Elders shall arrange to have the allegation investigated.

If the allegation is found to have substance, appropriate action will be taken by the Elders to address the issue and to seek repentance and reconciliation.

Where repentance and/or reconciliation does not result, the Elders may take appropriate action and/or bring a recommendation to a church members meeting.

The person or persons concerned shall, where possible, be given an opportunity to speak at any meeting called to consider their membership.

5. APPOINTMENT TO LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

5.1 Senior Pastor

5.1.1 Pastoral Responsibility

The church shall appoint a Senior Pastor to serve as Elder, pastor and Executive Team member. Pastoral responsibilities will be stipulated in a Terms of Call or Employment Agreement. The Senior Pastor shall be accountable to the Elders.

5.1.2 Pastoral Vacancy

5.1.2.1 When a vacancy occurs in the pastorate, the church members may, on the recommendation of the Elders, appoint an interim pastor who shall temporarily take up this function until a full-time appointment has been made.

5.1.2.2 A search committee shall be appointed by the Elders. Any search committee shall consist of not less than two Elders, along with other qualified people whom the Elders shall choose. The committee shall be guided by the Baptist Union pastoral placement protocols. The committee shall bring one nomination to a church meeting called for that purpose. Two weeks' notice shall be given of the meeting. No call to the pastorate shall be made except on the votes of at least 75% of the votes cast at that meeting.

Voting shall be by secret ballot.

5.1.3 Termination of the Pastorate

Any termination of the Pastorate will be subject to the Terms of Call or Employment Agreement. In addition, any resolution to terminate the pastorate shall require at least 55% of votes cast by secret ballot at a properly constituted special members' meeting called for that purpose. Three months' notice shall be given by the church members to

the pastor before the pastorate is terminated unless another period is negotiated between the parties.

5.2 Elders

5.2.1 Nominations

Any member may recommend individuals for election to eldership. Nominations shall, after due consideration, be brought by the Elders to a church members' meeting. Election of elders shall require a majority of not less than 75% of the votes cast by secret ballot. Elders shall serve for a term of two years and shall be eligible for re-election.

Only members of Orewa Baptist Church are eligible for election to eldership.

5.2.2 Elders Charter

The Elders Charter will stipulate the character, qualifications, responsibilities and ethical conduct expected of Elders (refer Appendix A).

The Elders shall at all times adhere to the Elders Charter.

5.2.3 Compilation of Elders and Meetings

There shall be a minimum of five (5) Elders, of which no less than three (3) must be in attendance at Elders' meetings to make up a quorum.

The Senior Pastor will hold a permanent Elder position without election.

The Elders shall meet monthly at least eleven times per year with the Senior Pastor and, if required by the Elders, other Pastoral staff.

The Elders shall appoint from their ranks a chairperson who cannot be the Senior Pastor.

5.3. Pastoral Staff, Staff and Ministry Leaders

5.3.1 Pastoral Staff

Those staff considered "Pastors" in the life of the church shall receive from the church a Letter of Call to or Employment Agreement for their ministry position, which must clearly describe the role and responsibilities of such positions.

Existing Pastoral Staff roles may be amended by the Senior Pastor in conjunction with the Elders to improve the pastoral servicing of the church members.

Pastoral staff shall be accountable to the Senior Pastor.

5.3.2 Ministry Areas

The Executive Team shall establish the Ministry Areas of the church and appoint church members to serve as Ministry Leaders. The establishment of ministry areas and the appointment of Ministry Leaders will require ratification by the Elders.

5.3.3 Ministry Leaders

Each Ministry Leader shall develop a ministry plan, including goals, expected outcomes, resources required and financial budget. This plan requires the approval of the Executive Team.

Ministry Leaders shall comply with the OBC Roles and Responsibilities descriptions as it applies to their roles. Where a ministry area cannot be achieved by a volunteer and requires the appointment of an employed staff member (full-time or part-time), that person shall be appointed by the Executive Team. Such appointments will require ratification by the Elders.

6. MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

6.1 Purpose

The purpose of any church members' meeting shall be to seek to discover and confirm the mind of God on matters affecting the life and work of the church and its mission.

The following are matters that must be decided by a members' meeting:

- Calling of a Senior Pastor and other Pastoral staff.
- Appointment of Elders.
- Termination of pastoral or Elders appointments.
- Approval of the church budget.
- Purchase or development of land and property.
- Altering this church constitution.

6.2 Notice and Quorum

The Elders shall be responsible for ensuring that members' meetings are conducted in good order and independently from Pastoral staff and management, following best practices regarding meetings of a public nature. The Elders shall:

- Call all members' meetings by giving at least two Sundays' notice during a Sunday service, as well as through electronic mail.
- Appoint a chairperson and minute taker. The chairperson must be a member and may be an Elder, but not the Senior Pastor. When a special meeting (see 6.4) is called, the Elders may appoint a suitable chairperson who is not a member of OBC.

- Ensure that proper records of signed minutes and carried motions are kept.

All church members' meetings must have a quorum of at least 20% of the church membership.

The calculation of the quorum shall not take into account missionaries or members living abroad, or members who are in hospital or are incapacitated and thus unable to attend the church meeting.

6.3 Mandatory meetings

6.3.1 There shall be an Annual Meeting of Members ("AMM") to be held at or near the end of February every year, and the agenda shall include:

- The presentation of the Annual Report.
- Presentation of the unaudited accounts for the previous year.
- The appointment of the Elders, if any. The election of Elders shall normally be made at the AMM but can be made at any members' meeting.
- Any other matter that requires approval by the members (refer 6.1) or matters that the Elders deem necessary to take to a members meeting.

6.3.2 There shall be a Vision and Budget Meeting held in the last quarter of the year, and the agenda shall include:

- Presentation of the Church Vision and Mission, and implications for the next year.
- Presentation of the audited accounts for the previous year.
- Approval of the next year's budget.

6.4 Special Meetings

The Elders, on receipt of a request signed by at least 10% of the active members, shall call a special meeting of the church members within 21 days of the request being received. Normal notice of the meeting shall be given.

6.5 National Leader

The National Leader of the Baptist Union of New Zealand may call a special church members' meeting by making announcements, or arranging for announcements to be made, on at least two Sundays prior to the meeting. The National Leader or nominee will chair such a meeting.

The clauses on quorum (6.2) and voting (6.8) shall apply at any meeting called by the National Leader.

6.6 Attendance

Members and non-members of the congregation may attend church members' meetings, but only members may vote. For decisions relating to clause 4.4.2, only church members may be present.

6.7 Voting

6.7.1 A majority of 75% of the valid votes cast is required for the appointment of Elders and Pastoral staff.

6.7.2 A majority of 55% of the valid votes cast is required for the termination of Elders, Senior Pastor or other Pastoral Staff.

6.7.3 A majority of 67% of the valid votes cast is required for all other decisions at Church Members meetings.

6.7.4 A secret ballot shall be held if requested by not less than 10% of the members present at those meetings or if requested by the chairperson.

7. CHARITABLE TRUST

The church may set up a Charitable Trust or Trusts to enable the Church to minister to its local community by seeking to meet the social, emotional, physical, spiritual and educational needs of the people of its local community. The Elders shall have the power to elect and remove Trustees.

8. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDIT

The Executive Team shall appoint an Auditor who shall audit the annual performance report and shall state whether in their opinion the performance report, in all material aspects, fairly represents:

- The entity information at the end of that financial year which falls on 30 December each year.
- The service performance for that financial year.
- The financial position, the financial performance and the cash flows for that financial year in accordance with the requirements of the relevant accounting standards of New Zealand.

9. DECLARATION OF TRUST

Any land or any property including church buildings and manses shall be vested in the Baptist Union as Trustee, which shall hold them for and on behalf of the church; and shall deal with the property by consent and direction of the church in accordance with the Trusts declared in the Sixth Schedule to the "Baptist Union Incorporation Act 1923".

10. ALTERATIONS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

10.1 Any recommended alteration to the constitution shall be publicised at least four Sundays before a members meeting, either by including the details of the proposed change in the church newsletter or by email to all congregants on the church email list. No alterations or additions shall be made to the constitution unless adopted by a majority of at least 67% of the members present at a members meeting.

10.2 Unless the church agrees to forgo its charitable status and income tax exemption, no alteration shall be made to this constitution which would in any way detract from the exclusively charitable nature of the church and, in particular, shall not alter the provisions of clauses 11 and 12 hereof.

11. NO PECUNIARY PROFIT FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL

11.1 No decision of the church or its leadership shall be made which would allow a member or members to receive any private pecuniary profit, provided that:

11.1.1 A member may receive reimbursement for all expenses properly incurred in connection with the affairs of the church.

11.1.2 The church may pay reasonable and proper remuneration to any officer or employee of the church in return for services actually rendered to the church.

11.1.3 Any member of the church may be paid for all usual professional business or trade charges for services rendered, time expended, and all acts done by that member or by any firm or entity of which the member is a partner, employee or associate, in connection with the affairs of the church.

11.1.4 Any member may retain any remuneration properly payable to the member by any company or undertaking with which the member may in any way be concerned or involved for which the member has acted in any capacity whatsoever notwithstanding that member's connection with that company or undertaking is any way attributable to that member's connection with the church.

11.1.5 Nothing shall prevent the church from making payments to any individual (whether a member or not) in fulfilling any of the purposes expressed in clause 2 hereof.

11.2 Members or leaders of the church, in determining all reimbursements, remuneration and charges payable in this clause, shall ensure that the restrictions imposed by the following clause are strictly observed.

11.3 Notwithstanding anything contained or implied in this constitution, no member of the church or any person associated with a member shall participate in or materially influence any decision

made by the church in respect to the payment to or on behalf of that member or associated person, of any income benefit or advantage whatsoever.

12. WINDING UP PROVISIONS

Subject to clauses 17, 18 and 19 of the Sixth Schedule to the Baptist Union Incorporation Act, if the members resolve at a properly constituted meeting of the church adopted by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present at such a church meeting that the church should be wound up then the net proceeds arising from such winding up shall be applied, with the prior approval of the Baptist Union of New Zealand, to such charitable purposes within New Zealand as the members may determine or in default of such determination as may be determined by a Judge of the High Court of New Zealand on application by the members, and such proceeds shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members of the church.

ELDERS CHARTER

Eldership

We believe that Jesus is the leader of Orewa Baptist Church. Through the discernment of church members, individuals are set aside and given governance authority for different functions in the life of our church. The Elders operate under the delegated authority of Orewa Baptist Church members to undertake spiritual oversight and church governance on behalf of the church.

The Eldership of the church consists of the Senior Pastor and a minimum of four elected Elders.

CHARTER FOR THE OREWA BAPTIST CHURCH ELDERS

This Charter describes the following:

1. Constitutional requirements regarding Elders
2. Considerations for prospective Elders
3. Responsibilities of Elders
4. Eldership principles
5. Elders' Code of Conduct

1. CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING ELDERS AT OBC

The constitutional duties of Elders are contained in the OBC Constitution.

The following are clauses extracted from the Constitution that directly relate to the duties of Elders. Elders must be familiar with the full context of the Constitution.

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3.2 The Members shall delegate authority for spiritual oversight and church governance to the Elders.

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- Call all members' meetings by giving at least two Sundays' notice during a Sunday service, as well as through electronic mail.*
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The calculation of the quorum shall not take into account missionaries or members living abroad, or members who are in hospital or are incapacitated and thus unable to attend the church meeting.

7. CHARITABLE TRUST

The church may set up a Charitable Trust or Trusts to enable the Church to minister to its local community by seeking to meet the social, emotional, physical, spiritual and educational needs of the people of its local community. The Elders shall have the power to elect and remove Trustees.

2. CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROSPECTIVE ELDERS

Elders shall have exhibited the qualities of an Elder found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

When considering a person for an Eldership role in Orewa Baptist Church, there must be evidence of the following:

- Character – *Does this person demonstrate a mature Christian character?*
- Competency – *Do they have the leadership experience and skills necessary to serve as an Elder?*
- Commitment – *Is this person actively involved in the life and activities of the church?*
- Call – *Has this person heard God's call for them to step into this role? How has the call been heard?*
- Consent – *Is it clear their family agree to this person stepping into this role?*
- Confirmation – *Do God's people recognise this person has the character, competency and calling for this role?*
- Capacity – *Even with a mature Godly character, competency, commitment, call, consent and congregational confirmation, does this person have the time, emotional energy and resilience to undertake all that will be required in this role?*

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ELDERS

At Orewa Baptist Church, Elders are primarily responsible for **spiritual oversight** of the congregation, including support and accountability for the Senior Pastor; and **church governance**, including clarifying and promoting the implementation of the OBC Vision and Mission.

Spiritual Oversight of the Congregation

- Pastoral support and availability to pray for the sick, dying, and those in extreme crisis.
- Promoting and modelling biblical values to the congregation.
- Ability to teach or preach as required.
- Serve the church through their spiritual gifts.
- Proactively protecting the congregation by:
 - Promoting and modelling a healthy conflict resolution and reconciliation culture at Orewa Baptist Church, including managing and addressing complaints in a God honouring way.
 - Being alert to alternative theological ideas that are not in keeping with biblical doctrine and correct those as necessary.

- Proactively supporting the Senior Pastor by:
 - Undertaking an annual review with the Senior Pastor to ensure they have sufficient resources, guidance and support to lead the congregation effectively.
 - Assisting or supporting the Senior Pastor with staff and ministry leader appointments and performance management as required.
 - Protecting the Senior Pastor and their family members from belligerent or abusive members of the community or congregation.
 - Ensure appropriate support is provided to the Senior Pastor and their immediate family members during the processing and management of complaints of misconduct involving or initiated by the Senior Pastor.
- Identifying and encouraging emerging leaders within the congregation.

Governance of the Church

The Elders have delegated authority from the members to lead the congregation in discerning God's will regarding the Vision and Mission of our church. The Senior Pastor will work closely with the Elders to lead the development of the Vision and Mission of the Church. The Vision and Mission will be documented and approved by the Elders before presentation to the membership at the annual Vision & Budget meeting.

The Senior Pastor, together with the Executive Team, the Management Support Teams and Ministry Leaders, are tasked with the 'operational' implementation of our Vision and Mission and operational functions.

Elders are tasked with the following specific responsibilities, which may be delegated to the Executive Team, Management Support Teams and Ministry Teams at OBC:

- Support and encourage the Senior Pastor in the development and frequent review of the Church's Vision and Mission, strategies and operational plans.
- Actively support and promote the Vision and Mission by seeking opportunities for regular communication; and monitoring progress as the congregation seeks to achieve its Vision and fulfil its Mission.
- Overall responsibility for ensuring Orewa Baptist Church meets its legal, financial and health and safety compliance obligations.
- Maintain a list of policies which will always require Elder approval (Tier 1 policies) and a list of policies delegated to the Executive Team for development and approval (Tier 2 policies).
- Ensuring open and appropriately transparent communication pathways between Elders and church members and attendees.
- Whenever available and appropriate, undertake relevant Elders or governance training.
- Be an ambassador for Orewa Baptist Church and its Mission to the Orewa Community and beyond, working with the OBC Ministry Teams and any associated trusts.
- Oversee the admission into and maintenance of membership as stipulated in the OBC Constitution.

- Regularly review (at least annually) the performance outcomes of Elders' responsibilities as well as the performance outcomes of delegated tasks (see next section).

Chair of Elders:

The Chair is responsible for the following:

- Setting the agenda for Elders' meetings.
- Facilitating Elders' meetings.
- Managing the disclosure process for conflicts of interest and considering action plans to manage potential risks resulting from any conflicts
- Considering and managing breaches of the Elders Charter. If a breach by the Chair is alleged, the remaining Elders shall appoint from within their ranks a person other than the Chair to consider and manage the breach.
- Encouraging all attendees to contribute during meeting discussions.
- Ensuring time is set aside in meetings for prayer:
 - For the discernment of God's will.
 - For the well-being of the congregation and its leaders.
 - For the ongoing mission and work of Orewa Baptist Church.
- Maintaining regular contact with the Senior Pastor for prayer, care, support and accountability.

4. ELDERSHIP PRINCIPLES

Elders will apply the following principles to their work together on behalf of Orewa Baptist Church:

- Honesty – We will be truthful and honest in our communication with each other. We will not withhold from each other information and insights that are important for us to discuss together for the sake of the church community.
- Steadfastness – We will be supportive of one another in our discussions with other team members, staff, and members of the congregation.
- Discernment – We will intentionally listen to God, listen to the congregation and listen to each other as we seek together God's will in our decision making.
- Harmony – We will not avoid disagreement, but we commit to 'disagreeing agreeably' and will actively seek to resolve any conflict in healthy biblical ways, seeking outside assistance when needed.
- Commitment – We will be intentional in giving priority to our Eldership duties, including regular attendance at, and preparing well for Elders' meetings.
- Prayer – We will pray regularly for each other, for our Pastors and Ministry Leaders, for the congregation and for the mission of the church.

- Affirmation – We will affirm the value of having different personalities and leadership styles. We will respect and accept each other and learn to serve together.
- Encouragement – We will be purposeful in encouraging each other in our commitments to learn, grow and explore new ideas.
- Accountability – We will be accountable to each other to develop a balanced lifestyle, to fulfil our responsibilities to the church and to maintain spiritual health.
- Caring – We will support and care for each other. We will be aware of each other's personal pressures and family situations. We will look out for each other and be willing to raise concerns appropriately with each other.
- Honouring – Bullying, abusive or manipulative behaviours will not be tolerated as we work together on behalf of our congregation.
- Partnering – We will reach out to the wider Baptist Family of Churches when we need help to fulfil the governance and congregational care needs of Orewa Baptist Church and in turn, whenever possible, we will help any in our wider Baptist family who reach out to us for help with their governance and congregational care needs.

5. ELDERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct promotes an ethical standard designed to bring glory to God through the work and lives of Orewa Baptist Church's Eldership. Therefore, Orewa Baptist Church Elders commit to uphold the following responsibilities:

RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD:

Knowing that Jesus Christ is the living head of the church, I choose to conduct myself in a manner that brings glory to Him. To the best of my ability, I will seek to:

- Be above reproach—that is, not open to legitimate criticism (1 Tim 3:1-7)
- Be a responsible servant of God.
- Exercise faithful stewardship in my devotional life through spiritual disciplines, the gifts of the Spirit, and acts of service.
- Exercise faithful stewardship of financial, physical, and intellectual resources.
- Accept accountability for all my actions and avoid situations that could reflect negatively on the name of Jesus Christ, and the missional reputation of Orewa Baptist Church.
- Maintain sexual purity.
- Not be given to drunkenness.
- Be gentle, not given to anger.
- Care well for my family, ensuring my duties as an elder do not actively cause harm to those closest to me.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE OREWA BAPTIST CONGREGATION:

I will lead with justice and mercy, seeking to appropriately balance strength and gentleness in all situations. To the best of my ability, I will seek to:

- Provide sound and clear leadership, support and oversight in my duties as an Elder.
- Be fair and consistent in my dealings with leaders and congregants, promoting and modelling our congregational values to the best of my ability.
- Be trustworthy in all areas of confidentiality, except those things I am legally bound to disclose. I will not betray the trust of any persons associated with our congregation by disclosing personal information about that person to others without that person's knowledge and consent except when withholding this information would cause significant harm to individuals or our congregation.
- Be committed to prompt reconciliation of interpersonal conflicts. I recognise that I must have personal courage, exercised with appropriate tact in facing opposition. I will encourage members of our congregation to resolve conflicts and reconcile wherever possible.
- Honour and respect all cultures, genders, and races.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE WIDER NEW ZEALAND BAPTIST FAMILY OF CHURCHES:

To the best of my ability, as an elder of a Baptist church in New Zealand, I will seek to:

- Uphold the Baptist principles of:
 - The authority of scripture
 - The priesthood of all believers
 - Freedom of conscience
 - Believer's baptism and membership
 - Freedom of the local congregation to recognise God's will
- Encourage the Orewa Baptist congregation to support Baptist mission regionally, nationally, and globally.
- Honour our wider Baptist family and be responsible and respectful in discussions about other Baptist congregations, leaders, and mission organisations.
- Seek help from, and offer help to, the wider Baptist family as I am able and if appropriate.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE GREATER BODY OF CHRIST:

Elders and attendees of Orewa Baptist Church are a part of the greater Christian community. To the best of my ability, I will seek to:

- Avoid actively enticing members of other church to leave their church.
- Seek to work in harmony with other Christian leaders and programs to strengthen the body of Christ and advance the kingdom of God.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY:

The local church is an integral part of the society in which it resides. An active, appropriate role in the community serves as a Christian example of love and is a witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. To the best of my ability, I will seek to:

- Be a responsible member of the wider Orewa community.
- Encourage the involvement of our congregation in appropriate community events.
- Comply with local and government regulations and laws as long as they do not conflict with the teachings of Jesus.
- Take care not to allow partisan political issues which could create polarisation within our congregation to be a focus in sermons, Bible studies, or other church meetings.

I have read this Elders' Charter, and I am committed to upholding the guidelines and principles within.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Witnessed by:

MEMBER'S PLEDGE

Being called of God into the fellowship of His people and into the membership of this church, I pledge by the grace of God to strive:

- To live at all times a life befitting a true Christian and an ambassador of the church.
- To take an active and diligent part in the life and work of the church, regularly attending its services of worship as far as I am able, and being willing to help in whatever way I can.
- To be faithful in prayer for the church and its witness in the community.
- To share conscientiously in contributing to the funds of the church according to my means.
- To share in the government of the church by supporting and encouraging the leadership of the church and by attending church members meetings.
- To do all in my power to deepen and enrich the spirit of fellowship in the church, always seeking to develop a spirit of love in this fellowship of Christ's people.
- To share by life and word in the supreme task of the church, namely by witnessing to the saving power of Jesus Christ our Lord.