

By-Laws of Perth Alliance Church

Introduction

The constitution of the local church is set up by the Annual Council of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia Incorporated. The church By Laws, after being approved by the National Board, will be used to implement the constitution for each local church.

I. Church Structure, Organisation and Name

1. Name: Our Church is called the Perth Alliance Church, as an organized member church of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia Incorporated.
2. Structure and Organisation: Spiritually and in terms of ministry cooperation we operate as One Church with subsidiary fellowships.¹ As the Church develops new autonomous fellowships through church-planting, we remain as One Church with a Combined Board of Elders, a Combined Pastoral Team and One Advisory Finance Committee. After a church-plant has met the criteria for establishment as an autonomous fellowship it shall have its own Board of Deacons, and will be granted the authority to have an independent financial and administrative status within our One Church system.
3. Definitions: The term “autonomous fellowship” or simply “fellowship” as employed in these By-Laws is equivalent to a “local Church” according to the Constitution. Each fellowship may have one or more congregations (e.g. Mandarin, Cantonese and English).

II. Membership

1. Those baptized in one of the fellowships of this church are simultaneously made members of that particular fellowship in accordance with the criteria for membership as set out in the Constitution.
2. Applications for transfer of membership by members of another fellowship, church (or denomination) may also be accepted upon approval by the Board of Elders.
3. All the pastors and their spouses shall automatically become members of the fellowship to which they are called.

III. Government

1. There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the month of September for each autonomous fellowship. A Combined Annual General Meeting (CAGM) of all the autonomous fellowships may precede the AGMs of the individual fellowships. The CAGM aims at resolving the direction and main policies of the church that cover all fellowships, whereas the AGM of each autonomous fellowship will approve their own budget, the election of deacons and other matters arising.
2. The date of the AGMs shall be announced no later than 14 days before the meetings.
3. The Agendas of the AGMs shall be announced no later than 7 days before the meetings.
4. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by the Board of Elders, or 35% of active members. Valid reasons should be provided for calling such a meeting.
5. The date of an EGM should be announced no later than 14 days before the meeting.

¹ The subsidiary fellowships shall be named Perth Alliance Church South, Perth Alliance Church North, etc (the name in Chinese may be different but will still begin Perth Alliance Church ...).

6. The quorum for an AGM or an EGM shall consist of half the voting membership of the current year. In the event that a quorum cannot be achieved, a second meeting shall be called within 60 days with 14 days advanced notice. All members then present shall constitute the quorum.

IV. Combined Board of Elders

1. Duties

The spiritual oversight of the One Church shall be in the care of a Combined Board of Elders. The Senior Pastor shall be the chairman of the Combined Board of Elders. The Board may suggest the number of elders to the AGM for election.

2. Organization

- 2.1 There should preferably be at least one elder for each congregation (Mandarin, Cantonese, English) of every fellowship, in addition to the pastor of each congregation.
- 2.2 The Combined Board of Elders will hold combined meetings with the elder(s) and pastor(s) of all congregations within the One Church.
- 2.3 As the Combined Board of Elders has been granted the authority to guide the ministry model, theological education and leadership and lay-training and missionary direction and priorities, both locally and internationally, of the One Church, it should do so faithfully and wholeheartedly.
- 2.4 The Combined Board of Elders shall, in consultation with the Boards of Deacons of each autonomous fellowship, formulate the financial system and policy of the whole church.
- 2.5 The Combined Board of Elders may appoint spiritually gifted and mature leaders to assist in the provision of pastoral care of the church.

V. Combined Pastoral Team

1. Duties

A Combined Pastoral Team shall, in consultation with the Combined Board of Elders, formulate the annual direction of the pastoral, evangelistic, training and missionary ministries of the One Church including all subsidiary autonomous fellowships.

2. Organisation

- 2.1 The Combined Pastoral Team shall consist of those pastors called and employed by each subsidiary fellowship.
- 2.2 Each congregation of every fellowship should preferably have at least one member of the Combined Pastoral Team to be responsible for the pastoral, evangelistic, training and missionary ministries of the congregation.
- 2.3 The Senior Pastor² is elected among the pastors and recommended to the Combined Board of Elders for approval and the General Meeting of Members for final approval. The Senior Pastor shall be the chairman of the Combined Pastoral Team.
- 2.4 The Combined Pastoral Team shall normally meet once a week.

² Regarding to the Senior Pastor for the whole Church

VI. Boards of Deacons

1. Duties
Each Board of Deacons shall under the authority of the Board of Elders be responsible for the financial and property matters of the fellowship by which they are elected, and the provision of those ministries to meet the physical and material needs of people.
2. Organisation
 - 2.1 Each autonomous fellowship can have a Board of Deacons of its own.
 - 2.2 Number - Each Board of Deacons shall have a minimum number of 4 members including the pastor(s), and a maximum of 12. According to the Sunday attendance, there shall be no more than 7 deacons for every 100 attendees.
 - 2.3 Election & Term – The term of office for deacons is one year. A deacon may be elected on the Board for not more than 3 consecutive terms. A deacon may be nominated again after 1 year.
 - 2.4 Quorum – The quorum of the Board of Deacons shall be a simple majority.
 - 2.5 The Board of Deacons may request a deacon who has been absent without valid reasons for 3 meetings to resign. In consultation with the Board of Elders, the Board of Deacons reserves the right to terminate a deacon's appointment.
 - 2.6 The Board of Deacons may appoint officers to form committees. All appointments will terminate at the next election of deacons.
 - 2.7 If any conflicts arise, the chairman shall have right to ask for a resolution from the Board of Elders.

VII. Nominating Committee for Elders and Deacons

1. Role:
Each congregation in each autonomous fellowship shall appoint a Nominating Committee which shall be responsible to place in nomination names for Elders and Deacons to be filled in the AGM. Where more than one Nominating Committee has been appointed in a fellowship, the Nominating Committees of that fellowship shall have at least one combined meeting.
2. Members:
Each Nominating Committee shall consist of a pastor, an elder and one person selected by the congregation, or the pastor, two elders and two persons selected by the congregation. Where there are insufficient elders, the Combined Board of Elders may appoint another person to serve on a Nominating Committee.
3. Procedure:
 - 3.1 Nominations shall be made in accordance with the Guidelines for Deacons and Elders Qualifications and Conditions of Election issued by the Board of Elders.
 - 3.2 Nominations in addition to those of the Nominating Committee may be made by church members in accordance with the Constitution. Such nominations shall be duly seconded and contain the consent of the nominee.
 - 3.3 A candidate for elder must be recommended by a two thirds majority of the combined Nominating Committees of an autonomous fellowship, and must be examined by the Combined Board of Elders before he is approved for nomination.
 - 3.4 A nominee for deacon must be approved by a two thirds majority of the combined Nominating Committees of an autonomous fellowship, and must be approved by the Combined Board of Elders before he is approved for nomination.

VIII. Election

1. Eligibility
Members of this Church over the age of eighteen who regularly attend this Church's Sunday Service for more than half the time during the year are voting members. Those who have been absent for the past 6 months will have no voting power.
2. Election of Deacons and Elders
 - 2.1 Deacons of each congregation will be elected by that congregation's own members.
 - 2.2 Deacons shall be elected by a simple majority of the members of that congregation present at the AGM.
 - 2.3 Elders will be elected by the members of all the congregations of that fellowship.³
 - 2.4 Elders shall be elected by at least 70% of the members present at the AGM.

IX. Property

1. Each autonomous fellowship may purchase property independently of any other fellowship.
2. A motion to purchase a property must be approved by at least 70% of the members of that fellowship present at the AGM.

X. Amendments

Church by-laws and amendments may be adopted by 2/3 majority vote in a meeting of the membership.

These By-Laws were revised from the 1990 By-Laws; they were adopted in the AGM in 1993, and approval by the National Board of Christian & Missionary Alliance of Australia; they were revised again in Extra General Meeting of Membership in June 1995, approval by the National Board of Christian & Missionary Alliance of Australia Incorporated.

Retyped on Sept, 2003 by Zoe Choy

Revised based on previous By-Law, the Five-year plan approved in Sept. 2006, and the Guidelines for Deacons and Elders Qualifications and Conditions of Election adopted in August 2007.

Revised and adopted in the AGM on 23 September 2007, and approved by the National Board of C&MA of Australia Incorporated on 14 November 2007.

Amended by the Board of Deacons (South) in September 2011.

³ Elders are appointed by the Fellowship, but automatically become members of the Combined Board of Elders.