

**Rosyth Baptist Church**  
**CONSTITUTION**  
**Adopted 2015**

**1. Name**

The Church shall be called Rosyth Baptist Church.

**2. Statement of purpose**

Rosyth Baptist Church exists:

- 2.1 to Worship God and communicate the Christian message and to encourage Christian discipleship
- 2.2 to respond to people's needs in practical compassion
- 2.3 to enrich our local community.

The Church may use all means consistent with its faith, to pursue these ends, including supporting individuals and charitable organisations involved in Christian Mission and the relief of poverty or deprivation. "Charitable organisation" shall mean a body on the Scottish Charity Register which is also regarded as a charity in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts

**3. Statement of faith**

We are a Christian Church who accept the authority of Scripture in all matters of faith and conduct and affirm the Apostles' Creed and the Baptist Union of Scotland's Declaration of Principle.

**4. Membership**

**4.1 Membership** is an agreement between believers, to walk together in Christ, for mutual support and encouragement. Those who are ready to take an active part in the Church are encouraged to consider membership.

**4.2 Responsibilities of being a member:** Members shall be responsible for

- 4.2.1 Joining with one another in public worship (including at the Lord's Table or Holy Communion) and at other times for prayer and encouragement.
- 4.2.2 Maintaining the "unity of the Spirit" within the Church.
- 4.2.3 Prayerful participation in seeking God's direction for the Church.
- 4.2.4 Living a life that is consistent with Scripture in all matters of personal conduct including sexual morality.
- 4.2.5 Engaging in Christian witness and service in the church and in the world

**4.3 Active Membership** shall be open to all who trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour and are following Him as Lord; who accept the Church's basis of faith; who have (normally) been baptised as believers; and who are committed to walk together in Christ, for mutual support and encouragement; and who are at least 16 years of age.

**4.4 Becoming an Active member.** Initially the membership commitment shall be made between the existing members in a Church Meeting, and those desiring membership. This will be formally celebrated at the Lord's table.

**4.5 Resting membership.** Active members who are on a long term basis, and for good reasons, unable to attend public worship shall be offered Resting Membership, which shall be reviewed annually in January by the Trustees. Resting members who are once again able to attend public worship may return to Active membership by reaffirming their membership commitment at the Lord's Table.

**4.6 Removal from Membership.** Active members who are absent from public worship for six months or otherwise fail to fulfil the responsibilities of membership should be approached by Church leaders to discuss the situation. If they fail to respond positively to this they may be removed from membership at a Church meeting provided due notice has been given.

## **5. Church Meetings**

### **5.1 Purpose:**

- 5.1.1 Church Meetings shall be held monthly, for prayer, information and consultation
- 5.1.2 The aim of Church meetings in seeking the guidance of God, is to do so by reaching a consensus wherever possible.
- 5.1.3 All major decisions including the appointment of Church leadership team and staff, and significant financial commitments, shall be made at a Church meeting.

**5.2 Attendance:** Church meetings are normally open to all; but only Active Members may vote.

**5.3 Quorum.** A Church meeting shall only be able to make valid decisions if at least be 25% of the Active Membership are present.

**5.4 Notice.** Major items to be decided at Church meetings shall be publicised at the previous Church Meeting and in Church Notices.

**5.5 Voting.** Where voting is necessary, decisions must be accepted by a 2/3 majority of Active Members present in order to be carried.

**5.7 Conduct of Ballots.** Where appointments are being made by ballot, Active members unavoidably prevented from attending the church meeting may request a proxy vote. The names of those voting by proxy shall be read out at the Church meeting. Candidates in a ballot must receive at least 2/3 of votes cast in order to be appointed.

**5.8 AGM** The September Church Meeting shall be the Annual General Meeting of the Church, when annual reports shall be presented for approval.

## **6. Church Leadership Team/Trustees**

### **6.1 Responsibilities.**

- 6.1.1 Church Leadership Team shall serve the church by taking oversight of the Church's life.
- 6.1.2 They shall be the Church's Trustees, and shall be responsible for ensuring that the Church pursues its charitable purposes, makes the best use of its resources and complies with relevant legislation.
- 6.1.3 They shall regularly pray individually and together for the life of the Church.
- 6.1.4 Church Leadership Team shall appoint from their number an Administrator who shall liaise with OSCR. They may appoint others of their number to other roles as agreed with the Church Meeting.
- 6.1.5 Leadership Team shall enlist suitably gifted task teams, to perform Pastoral and practical functions. These teams may include Leadership Team members and others as agreed by the Church Meeting.

### **6.2 Qualification etc.**

- 6.2.1 Leadership Team members/Trustees must display the character required of Christian leadership in 1 Tim 3.
- 6.2.2 Leadership Team members must be legally free to be Trustees under section 69 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.
- 6.2.3 They must also be legally free to work with children and young people under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.
- 6.2.4 Leadership Team members/Trustees must have been active Church members for at least one year immediately prior to election.
- 6.2.5 There shall be no less than 4 Leadership Team Members in addition to the Senior Pastor who shall be a Trustee automatically.
- 6.2.6 Leadership team Members shall serve for a term of three years, which may be renewable for one further term after which they must have a break in service of at least a year.

### **6.3 Appointment.**

- 6.3.1 Potential Church Leadership Team/Trustees shall be nominated by two members and endorsed by the existing Leadership Team/trustees who shall ensure that nominees fulfil the legal requirements of the Charities Act, and are capable of discharging the responsibilities of office.
- 6.3.2 In the event that there are more suitable candidates than required, the Church Leadership Team /Trustees shall recommend those they deem most suitable.
- 6.3.3 Election of Church Leadership Team /Trustees shall be conducted by ballot held at a Church Meeting after due notice has been given. A Church Leadership Team Member shall only be deemed elected after receiving a 2/3 majority of votes cast

### **7. Pastoral staff**

**7.1 General.** The Church at a Church Meeting may determine its need to appoint Pastoral Staff including specialists such as youth or outreach workers. Such Staff will normally be automatically part of the Leadership Team and must possess the legal and spiritual qualifications for that team

#### **7.2 Appointment**

- 7.2.1 Pastoral Staff shall be Nominated by a Search Team which shall consist of the Leadership Team and one or two others appointed by the Church Meeting.
- 7.2.2 Pastoral staff shall be appointed on receiving a 2/3 majority in a ballot held at a Church Meeting.

**7.3 Moderator** In the event of a (Senior) Pastoral Vacancy a Moderator shall be appointed by the Church meeting, to chair all Church Meetings, Leadership Team/Trustees Meetings and Search Team Meetings, and undertake other duties agreed by the Church meeting.

**7.4 Remuneration** Pastoral Staff and Moderator may be remunerated in accordance with guidelines set down from time to time by the Baptist Union of Scotland and agreed by the Church Meeting

### **8. Leaders of other ministries within the Church**

All who direct ministries (or chair task groups or Committees) within the Church, must be Active Members of the Church. They may be assisted by suitable people who are not members.

### **9. Amendments to constitution**

May only be made at a Church Meeting after due notice has been given.

### **10. Dissolution of the Church.**

The Church shall be dissolved – shall cease to function – if the Leadership Team/Trustees and Church meeting decides its witness is no longer viable. Subject to a decision by a two thirds majority at a Church meeting, the Church's assets after all its debts have been paid and expenses met, may be applied to appropriate charitable purposes. In the absence of such a decision being made, all the Church's assets shall be placed in the hands of the Baptist Union of Scotland (or if it has ceased to exist an association of Churches engaged in objects similar to those of the Baptist Union of Scotland) to be used in accordance with its charitable purposes. "Charitable purpose" shall mean a charitable purpose under Section 7 of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 which is also regarded as a charitable purpose in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts. The existing leaders/Trustees shall continue to serve as Trustees until this process has been completed.