

## THE CHURCH

The purpose of New Day Baptist Church, Morton is the advancement of the Christian Faith. It also carries out other charitable purposes in the UK and other parts of the world

It subscribes to the Baptist Union's Declaration of Principle.

It is a member of the Baptist Union and of the East Midland Association, supporting the work of both along with that of BMS World Mission and other Baptist and Ecumenical Partners

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is normally via Baptism by total immersion, but others are allowed to join on Profession of Faith or by transfer after having been a member in good standing of another Baptist church. Persons admitted to membership without being baptized shall not be eligible for office.

Applications for membership are considered and voted upon by the membership at one of their meetings.

Membership entails a proper degree of personal prayer and Bible study, attendance at worship including the sacrament of Communion, giving of financial support and the upholding of Christian values.

Members are only removed from the list as a result of death, resignation, transfer or by a decision of a Members' meeting.

## MEETINGS

Members meet under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Lordship of Christ to discern the mind of God. Meetings are set in the context of scripture and prayer.

① Ordinary meetings are held at least four times a year to consider routine matters. One such meeting shall include the Annual General Meeting. Resolutions are passed by a simple majority of those voting.

② Special meetings are required for the appointment or dismissal of a minister and for matters involving the sale or purchase of property. Resolutions are passed by a two thirds majority of those voting.

No proxy or postal votes shall be permitted. No resolution can be rescinded within twelve months of being passed. A quorum of 10% of Church Members is required.

## **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

These will comprise the Minister(s), Deacon(s), and Elder(s) along with, by virtue of their level of responsibility, the Church Secretary, the Church Treasurer.

Deacons are eligible to serve for successive periods of three years. Nomination and election is required for each period. Elders are appointed to serve until such time as they resign or at the request of the church meeting. Other officers are eligible for nomination and election on an annual basis.

Any Church Member is eligible for election unless disqualified by law to be the trustee of a charity. Close family members shall be eligible for election.

Nominations must be in writing on three specific Sundays after which the names of those nominated will be published on the Sunday prior to the meeting. No-one may nominate more persons than there are vacancies.

Voting will be by secret ballot. To be elected, a nominee must receive support from at least 50% of those voting. Subject to this, those with the highest number of votes will, in descending order, fill the vacancies.

Should vacancies still exist, an equivalent number of those with the next highest support (although not achieving 50%) will be placed before the next Members' meeting for a ballot to determine if they then receive the 50% needed. If so, they will fill the remaining vacancies.

Along with the Minister, Charity Trustees are empowered to exercise control, management and administration in accordance with and subject to direction provided by the Members.

No Charity Trustees may be employed in another capacity within the Church without the permission of the Charity Commission.

Trustees' Meetings will be conducted in a similar manner to that of Members' meetings. A simple majority will suffice to pass any resolution.

## **MINISTERS**

Anyone appointed must normally be on the Accredited List of the Baptist Union but others may apply .

Appointment or removal can only be carried out at a Special Members' Meeting after all proper procedures have been followed so that, on either issue, members are fully informed of all relevant facts.

Notwithstanding the fact that a Minister is a Charity Trustee, they may be paid an appropriate level of remuneration out of General funds.

The duties of a Minister will depend upon abilities, but will normally be expected to have an emphasis on the leading of worship and prayer, teaching the Christian faith, and pastoral care.

## **FINANCE**

A Treasurer will be appointed to maintain the proper records required by Charity Law in respect of all financial matters. A set of Accounts will be presented on behalf of the Charity Trustees to the Members annually along with the Trustees Annual Report. Both documents will then be submitted to the Charity Commission.

## **THE CONSTITUTION**

Copies will be made available to all Members and applicants for membership.

The Constitution cannot be amended such that the Charity would cease to be a charity.

Clauses requiring Charity Commission approval cannot be changed.

Clauses affecting the relationship with the Baptist Union or the Association cannot be changed without either body being given the opportunity for their representatives to speak to the Members.

Other permitted alterations must be at a Special Members' Meeting.

## **CHURCH CLOSURE**

Any resolution to close must be notified to the Baptist Union, the Association and the Charity Commission.