

CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

RULES

The rules of the Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses (hereinafter called "the Association") are as follows:-

INTERPRETATION

"Property" means real and personal property of any kind, including but not limited to land, building, chattels, and money.

"Committee" means such persons who are members of the Association and elected by the members to serve in that capacity.

1. The name of the Association is "CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES."

OBJECTS

2. The objects of the Association are to advance principally within Australia the Christian religion as practiced by the body of Christian persons known as Jehovah's Witnesses in harmony with the teaching and directions of the ecclesiastical Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses by:
 - (a) Teaching at public places of worship the gospel of God's Kingdom under Christ Jesus, unto all nations and peoples, as a witness to the name, word and supremacy of Almighty God Jehovah by the dissemination of Bible truths orally, written, and by the use of any other lawful means that are directly or indirectly conducive to the furtherance of the exclusively religious and charitable objects of the Association—Matthew 24:14; 28:19, 20; Psalm 83:18;
 - (b) Promoting and spreading this Christian religion by means of the study of the Bible and Bible-based literature at public places of worship;
 - (c) Providing, supporting, and maintaining, land, buildings and works for the purpose of public worship, Bible education and Christian fellowship; and
 - (d) Co-operating with and assisting any other associations of Jehovah's Witnesses, to pursue their exclusively religious and charitable objects, whether incorporated or not.

POWERS

3. In pursuit of and furtherance of its exclusively religious and charitable objects, the Association may exercise, as it thinks fit, by any lawful means whatsoever, the following powers:
 - (a) to purchase, build, erect, lease, hire or in any way acquire or let out Property which may be conveniently used to advance its stated objects;
 - (b) to appoint any other legal entity approved by the Australian Branch office of Jehovah's Witness to hold title as bare trustee of the Associations interest in real Property;
 - (c) to operate places of religious assembly and public worship in Australia;
 - (d) to repair, maintain, alter, improve and extend Property for the purpose of advancing its stated objects;
 - (e) to accept, develop and turn to account any land acquired by the Association or in which it is interested;
 - (f) to give mortgages or enter any contract or arrangement;
 - (g) to give or enter into mortgages and guarantees for the financing and assistance of any proposal, plan or contract or arrangement for the expansion of the ministry carried out by Jehovah's Witnesses;
 - (h) to sell or donate any Property of the Association;

- (i) to accept, hold (either outright or on trust) and apply any bequests, gifts or contributions of Property;
- (j) to negotiate and enter into any contract or agreement;
- (k) to authorise and appoint agents, as well as other persons to care for necessary matters in furtherance of its stated objects;
- (l) to do any and all other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of its stated objects.

REGISTERED OFFICE

4. The registered office of the Association shall be situated at 12-14 Zouch Road, Denham Court, New South Wales, Australia, or at such other place or places as the Association shall from time to time determine.

MEMBERSHIP

5. Membership of the Association shall be subject to the following conditions:
- a) a member of the Association must serve as an elder in a congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses;
 - b) the number of members shall be not fewer than 5 nor more than 20; and
 - c) a person who qualifies as a member under 5(a) and has been recommended by the Committee established under clause 14 below shall be admitted to membership upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote passed by resolution at a meeting of the members of the Association.

Termination of Membership

6. A person shall immediately cease to be a Member:
- (a) upon his death;
 - (b) if he becomes of unsound mind;
 - (c) when he ceases to serve as a congregation elder;
 - (d) upon his voluntary resignation in writing to the Committee; or
 - (e) when his conduct is judged by the Committee to be prejudicial to the interests of the Association, as determined by not less than two thirds of the Committee present at the meeting and sharing in the voting, but only after notifying the member in writing and considering the matter in the light of any written presentations which the member concerned puts forward within 14 clear days after receiving notice.

MEETINGS

Annual Meeting

7. Should it be deemed necessary by the Committee, an Annual Meeting of members may be held at a time and place as determined by the Committee.

Call of Special Meeting by Committee

8. Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the Committee and may be held at a time and place as determined by the Committee.

Call of Special Meeting by Members

9. Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by a written request containing the signatures of at least five (5) members of the Association. After receiving such request, the Committee has twenty one (21) days in which to schedule the Special meeting.

Notice of Meeting

10. Notice of an annual or special meeting shall be given in writing, or by other electronic means as the Committee decides, at least seven (7) and not more than ninety (90) days before the meeting, and shall state the place, date, and hour of the meeting. In the case of a Special Meeting, the notice shall also state the purpose for which the meeting is being called.

Quorum of Members

11. A majority of the total membership of the Association present (via video-link, audio-link or by any other electronic means), either in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at a meeting for the transaction of any business.

Vote

12. Each member shall be entitled to one vote at meetings of members of the Association. At all such meetings, voting shall be by a show of hands.

Proxy

13. Every member entitled to vote at a meeting of members, or to express consent or dissent without a meeting, may authorise another member of the Association to act for him by proxy. Every proxy must be in writing and be signed by the member giving it.

COMMITTEE

Committee Members

14. The affairs and business of the Association shall be managed by the Committee. Also, for the purposes of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (hereinafter called the "Act"), each member of the Committee shall be designated a "Responsible Entity" (Responsible Person), as that term is defined in the Act.

Appointment of Committee

15. The Committee shall be appointed by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present at any meeting called for that purpose.

Termination as Committee Member

16. A Committee Member's appointment shall immediately cease:
 - (a) upon his death;
 - (b) where he is no longer a member of the Association;
 - (c) upon voluntary resignation in writing to the Committee; or
 - (d) by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present at a Special Meeting.

Powers and Duties of the Committee

17. The Committee shall have the authority to exercise all the powers of the Association in carrying out its stated objects. The Committee may delegate to any other person or persons, upon such terms and conditions as the Committee may consider necessary or appropriate, any function of the Committee.

AMENDMENTS

18. These rules and objects may be altered, added to, varied or amended by a resolution passed by a majority of those present at any meeting of the Association, provided however such alteration, addition, variation or amendment shall not affect the exclusively religious and charitable nature of the Association, or result in the distribution of its assets on winding up or dissolution for any purpose that is not exclusively religious and charitable.

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS AND BANK ACCOUNTS

19. All bank accounts shall be operated and cheques, notes, or other negotiable instruments shall be signed on behalf of this Association by such two members of the Committee or agents as the Committee may from time to time designate.

FISCAL YEAR

20. The fiscal year of the Association shall end August 31st of each year, unless otherwise determined by the Committee.

PECUNIARY GAIN

21. Any income, benefit or advantage of the Association shall be applied exclusively to the objects of the Association. The Property of the Association is irrevocably dedicated to such objects, and no part of the net income or assets of the Association shall ever inure to the benefit of a member or Committee member of the Association.
22. No member or Committee member of the Association or any person associated with a member or Committee member shall participate in, or materially influence, any decision made by the Association in respect of a payment to or on behalf of that member, Committee member or associated person.
- (a) Any such payment referred to in clause 22 shall be reasonable and relative to that which would be paid in an arm's length transaction (being the open market value).
 - (b) Any member may receive full reimbursement for all expenses properly incurred by that member in connection with the affairs of the Association.
 - (c) Any member or Committee member of the Association who is or may be, in any other capacity whatsoever, interested or concerned directly or indirectly in any Property or undertaking in which the Association is or may be in any way concerned or involved, shall disclose the nature and extent of that person's interest to the Committee, and shall not take any part whatsoever in any deliberations of the Committee concerning any matter in which that member or Committee member of the Association is or may be interested.
 - (d) The provisions and effect of this clause 22 shall not be removed from this document and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.

INDEMNITY

23. Every Committee member, member, responsible entity, other officer, or agent for the time being of the Association shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Association against any liability incurred by him in his capacity as Committee member, member, responsible entity, other officer, or agent in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in relation to any such proceedings in which relief is granted to him by the Court in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust.

WINDING UP

24. In the event of the Association being wound up, the net assets of the Association shall be distributed to another charitable organisation whose objects are in harmony with the exclusively religious and charitable purposes of Jehovah's Witnesses within Australia.

The undersigned Committee members certify that they have adopted the foregoing Rules of the Association, to allow it to comply with the requirements of the Act.

Dated: November 5, 2018



Committee member



Committee member



Committee member