

GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

LOCAL RULES

Version History			
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LOCAL RULES GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, SWINDON, WILTSHIRE

1 INTRODUCTION

These local rules amplify the Constitution. Should there be any conflict between these Local Rules and the Constitution, then the Constitution takes precedence.

2 CLAUSES 6.2 BELONGING TO THE CHURCH & 8.4 THE MEMBERSHIP LIST

The Biblical principles given in Matthew 18: 15 – 17 shall be followed especially in cases where member's conduct is in question.

3 CLAUSE 7.4 JOINING AND BECOMING A CHURCH MEMBER

The process by which a person applies for membership is as follows:

- Applications will be made to the Church Secretary.
- Two members of the church will be appointed by the Church Secretary to meet each applicant.
- Copies of the Constitution and Local Rules will be given to each applicant.
- The privileges, responsibilities and basis of membership, together with the applicant's Christian faith will be discussed.
- The visitors will report back to a Church Members' Meeting and following their report a vote will be taken by simple majority.
- If agreed, membership will be immediate and be recognised at the earliest convenient communion service.
- The decision will be given to the applicant by the Secretary.

4 CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Church will follow the guidance given by the Baptist Union which will be explained and endorsed each year by an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting.

5 EXPENDITURE LIMITS AND BUDGETS

5.1 The financial expenditure limits for any payments by the treasurer alone and by the deacons alone, before prior approval has to be obtained by an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting, will be agreed at each Annual General Meeting. This excludes routine running expenses or expenditure in an emergency situation when retrospective approval is required.

5.2 Trustees will be responsible for budgets which may be delegated as appropriate.

6 CHANGES TO THESE LOCAL RULES

Changes may be made to these Local Rules by a vote at an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting.

7 MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DEACONS

Clause 15.4 In addition to Minister(s) Secretary and Treasurer, the maximum number of Deacons serving as Charity Trustees shall be nine or number agreed at the Members' meeting.