



Primrose Hill Baptist Church

Cross Lane Primrose Hill
Huddersfield
West Yorkshire
HD4 6DL

www.primrosehillbaptist.org.uk

As a company of men and women who have individually accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we here and now dedicate ourselves to Him, as children of God.

We declare ourselves to be a Church of Jesus Christ, founded upon the Holy Bible, the inspired Word of God, the only rule of faith.

Indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we are united in our desire to walk worthy of our calling in the proclamation of the Gospel, the observance of the ordinances, and in performance of such other good works as promote the salvation of men and women, and the well being of the world, as God, by His grace, enables us.

Constitution

1: NAME OF CHURCH

The Church shall be known as Primrose Hill Baptist Church, Huddersfield. It shall be affiliated to the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, and shall consist of those individuals who have become members in the manner hereinafter set forth.

2: MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership shall be open to all who profess repentance towards God, who have faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, whose lives bear evidence of their Christian profession and who have confessed their faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit through the ordinance of believer's baptism. Exceptions to this rule on the grounds of health shall be by decision of the Church Meeting.
- B. Each candidate for membership, who is not in membership with another Baptist Church, shall be interviewed by two members appointed by the church meeting, one of whom shall be a Deacon, who shall inquire into the reality of their Christian faith and Christian character. After visitation a report and recommendation shall be submitted by these two members to a church meeting, and if the application is supported by the majority of those present, shall be accepted into membership.
- C. Believers in membership with other Baptist Churches who have confessed their faith through believers baptism shall be received into membership by letter of transfer or of commendation, when their application has been supported by the majority of those present at a church meeting.
- D. Those accepted for membership shall be welcomed into the fellowship of the Church at a Communion Service.

- E. Application for a transfer from this church shall be made by a letter of transfer or commendation by the Church secretary after approval has been given by the Diaconate.
- F. Members are expected loyally to attend the services of the Church and to contribute towards its support as God has prospered them; to take part in Church activities and with God's help to lead lives regulated by the teaching and inspired by the Spirit of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
- G. Any member whose conduct is incompatible with the Christian profession shall be visited by members of the Diaconate, lovingly consulted and advised. If such conduct continues the deacons shall take the matter to the church meeting.
- H. The membership roll shall be revised annually. Where possible no name shall be removed from the roll without notice being given and visitation being made to the person concerned. Deletion of names shall require the votes of a majority of the members present at a church meeting.
- I. Members who have moved to another area and no longer able to attend the church will have their names placed on an '**Out of town**' register until a letter is received requesting transfer.

3: ORDINANCES

- A. The communion of the Lord's Supper will be observed at least twice a month. All those who have received Jesus as Saviour shall be invited to share in the Communion Service.
- B. The ordinance of baptism shall be that of believers, by immersion in water, in the name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It shall be available to all those who have professed their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

4: CHURCH OFFICERS

A: THE PASTORATE

- A1** At the beginning of a pastoral vacancy the advice of the General Superintendent should be obtained in regard to the making or considering of a call to the pastorate, The advice of the Gen. Supt. should also be sought in the appointing of a moderator during the inter-regnum.
- A2** The Minister shall have been baptised as a believer by immersion and shall maintain the doctrine and practice of immersion of believers.
- A3** A call to the pastorate shall be decided upon at a Special Church Meeting of the Church convened for this purpose.
- A4** For a call to the pastorate to be sent to a Minister at least 80% of those members present and eligible to vote shall have voted in favour,
- A5** If **grant aided** the terms and conditions of appointment and service shall be as recommended by the Baptist Union of Great Britain. If **self supporting** the terms shall be as recommended by the Church and negotiated by the deacons with the Minister but they shall be at least equal to the terms recommended by the Baptist Union of Great Britain for aided churches. These terms shall be reviewed annually.
- A6** If the termination of the appointment of the Minister is to be considered, advice and assistance should be sought from the Gen. Supt. However, in the event of a Special Church Meeting being called to formally consider the above, any decision to terminate the appointment of the Minister would require to be supported by at least two thirds of the membership.

B: THE DIACONATE

- B1** Any member of the Church above the age of 18 years of age who has been in membership with this church for at least twelve months shall be eligible for

the Diaconate.

- B2** The strength of the Diaconate is to be determined by the Church Meeting.
- B3** The term of office shall be four years except in the case of Deacons who replace retired or deceased Deacons, when they shall finish the term of office of the Deacon they replace.
- B4** Deacons shall be elected by ballot at the Church Meeting from those who have previously consented to nomination. Each nomination shall be in writing, proposed and seconded by Church members, and shall be handed to the Church Secretary by a date announced on the two previous Sundays.
- B5** In order to secure election a nominee must receive the votes of at least two thirds of the members attending and eligible to vote.

C: SECRETARY AND TREASURER

When a vacancy occurs in the post of Church Secretary or Treasurer recommendations for either office shall be made at a church meeting by the Diaconate. The nominee must at that time be serving on the Diaconate and will require the support of those attending the meeting and eligible to vote.

5: CHURCH MEETINGS

- A** The Church Meeting is the occasion when, as individuals and as a community, the members submit themselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and stand under the judgement of God that they might know the mind of Christ. The Church Meeting is the ultimate decision making body on all matters relating to the affairs of the church. All activities, organisations and groups shall be accountable to it. It shall be for the purpose of the worship of God, for Christian fellowship and the discussion of important issues and the transaction of business of the church under the guidance of Christ.

- B** A General Church Meeting shall be held at least once a quarter. An Annual Business Meeting shall be held during the first quarter of each year at which the Treasurer shall present the accounts for the year for discussion and approval. Officers and representatives shall be elected at this meeting. Financial Reports shall be received from all departments of the church.
- C** A Special Church Meeting may be called at the discretion of the Minister and a majority of the Deacons, or at the written request of ten members; notice of such a meeting shall be given at both services on the two preceding Sundays.
- D** All members shall be entitled to vote at Church meetings.

6: GENERAL

- A** Meetings and Services on Church Premises shall be held only with the permission of the Minister and the Deacons and upon such conditions as they shall decide.
- B** Leaders of all activities in the Church shall be appointed by the Church Meeting, It is important that all who hold positions of leadership should be Church Members, or at least in real sympathy with the aims and purposes of the Church and submissive to its authority.
- C** Any gifts made to the Church become the property of the Church and shall be administered by the Church Meeting. All property of Church Organisations remain the property of the Church.

7: ALTERATION OF RULES

- 1** The foregoing rules, a copy of which shall be given to every Church Member, may be altered only at the Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting called for the purpose and by at least a two thirds majority of the Church Members present at the meeting.

July 1995