

Constitution of Shepherds Heart

CONSTITUTION

1. Name

1.1 The organization hereby constituted will be called **Shepherds Heart**

1.2 Its shortened name will be **SH** (hereinafter referred to as the organization).

1.3 Body corporate

The organization shall:

- Be governed and administered with a Christian Ethos and with Biblical Principles.
- Exist in its own right, separately from its members.
- Continue to exist even when its membership changes and there are different office Bearers.
- Be able to own property and other possessions.
- Be able to sue and be sued in its own name.

2. Objectives

(a) The organization's main objectives are **to provide services to the community regarding development and empowerment in life skills and orientation through the medium of education, training, sports and learning (i.e. Skills Development, Relief Work, HIV/AIDS prevention programs, Motivational Talks, Positive Living)**

(b) The organization's secondary objectives will be to: **e.g. to work in collaboration with other organizations that mainly deal with transformation, education and training.**

3. Income and property

3.1 The organization will keep a record of everything it owns.

3.2 The organization may not give any of its money or property to its members or office bearers. The only time it can do this is when it pays for work that a member or office bearer has done for the organization. The payment must be a reasonable amount for the work that has been done.

3.3 A member of the organization can only get money back from the organization for expenses that she or he has paid for or on behalf of the organization.

3.4 Members or office bearers of the organization do not have rights over property that belong to the organization.

4. Membership and General Meetings

4.1 If a person wants to become a member of the organization, she or he will have to apply to the organization's management committee. The management committee has the right to say no.

4.2 Members of the organization must attend its annual general meetings. At the annual general meeting members exercise their right to determine the policy of the organization.

4.3 Upon termination of membership, the member has a right to appeal upon which a suitable compromise can be reached between the member and organization

Membership will be terminated for any one of the following reasons:

(1) By death

(2) By exclusion. Any member who ceases to regularly attend the stated meetings of this organisation without showing just cause, or who upon relocation fails to maintain a vital contact with the organisation, may be excluded from membership. In such cases the trustees will try to contact the person to rectify and resolve the situation. If those

efforts are in vain the person will be informed, if and when feasible they will be notified of termination of membership.

- (3) By Resignation. A member may voluntarily resign their membership of this organisation
- (4) By Excommunication. At the discretion of the trustees and in consultation with the relevant parties. A member may be excommunicated if and when
 - (a) They deliberately work contrary to the purposes and goals of the organisation.
 - (b) who blatantly and impenitently conducts themselves in a manner inconsistent with their Christian faith, or
 - (c) who persists in disturbing the unity and peace of the organisation.

In all such cases the principles as outlined in Matthew 18:15-19 will be applied.

5. Management

- 5.1 An executive committee will manage the organization. The executive committee will be made up of not less than **4** members. They are the office bearers of the organization
- 5.2 All office bearers and members of the executive committee must be a confessing and practicing Christian who are actively involved and engaged in the life of a Bible based Church
- 5.2 Office bearers will serve for one year, but they can stand for re-election for another term in office after that. Depending on what kind of services they give to the organization, they can stand for reelection into office again and again. This is so long as their services are needed and they are ready to give their services.
- 5.3 If a member of the executive committee does not attend three executive committee meetings in a row, without having applied for and obtaining leave of absence from the executive committee, then the executive committee may find a new member to take that person's place.
- 5.4 The executive committee will meet at least once a month. More than half of members need to be at the meeting to make decisions that are allowed to be carried forward. This constitutes a quorum.
- 5.5 Minutes will be taken at every meeting to record the executive committee's decisions. The minutes of each meeting will be given to executive committee members at least two weeks before the next meeting. The minutes shall be confirmed as a true record of proceedings, by the next meeting of the executive committee, and shall thereafter be signed by the chairperson.
- 5.6 The organization has the right to form sub-committees. The decisions that sub-committees take must be given to the executive committee. The executive committee must decide whether to agree to them or not at its next meeting. This meeting should take place soon after the sub-committee's meeting. By agreeing to decisions the executive committee ratifies them.
- 5.7 All members of the organization have to abide by decisions that are taken by the management committee.

6. Powers of the organization

The executive committee may take on the power and authority that it believes it needs to be able to achieve the objectives that are stated in point number 2 of this constitution. Its activities must abide by the law.

- 6.1 The executive committee has the power and authority to raise funds or to invite and receive contributions.
- 6.2 The executive committee does, however, have the power to buy, hire or exchange for any property that it needs to achieve its objectives.

- 6.3 The executive committee has the right to make by-laws for proper management, including procedure for application, approval and termination of membership.
- 6.4 The organization will decide on the powers and functions of office bearers.

7. Meetings and procedures of the committee

- 7.1 The executive committee must hold at least two ordinary meetings each year.
- 7.2 The chairperson, or two members of the committee, can call a special meeting if they want to. But they must let the other executive committee members know the date of the proposed meeting not less than 21 days before it is due to take place. They must also tell the other members of the executive which issues will be discussed at the meeting. If, however, one of the matters to be discussed is to appoint a new executive committee member, then those calling the meeting must give the other executive members not less than 30 days notice.
- 7.3 The chairperson shall act as the chairperson of the executive committee. If the chairperson does not attend a meeting, then members of the executive who are present choose which one of them will chair that meeting. This must be done before the meeting starts.
- 7.4 There shall be a quorum whenever such a meeting is held.
- 7.5 When necessary, the executive committee will vote on issues. If the votes are equal on an issue, then the chairperson has either a second or a deciding vote.
- 7.6 Minutes of all meetings must be kept safely and always be on hand for members to consult.
- 7.7 If the executive committee thinks it is necessary, then it can decide to set up one or more subcommittees.
It may decide to do this to get some work done quickly. Or it may want a subcommittee to do an inquiry, for example. There must be at least three people on a sub-committee.
The sub-committee must report back to the executive committee on its activities. It should do this regularly.

8. Annual general meetings

The annual general meeting must be held once every year, towards the end of the organization's financial year.

The organization should deal with the following business, amongst others, at its annual general meeting:

- Agree to the items to be discussed on the agenda.
- Write down who is there and who has sent apologies because they cannot attend.
- Read and confirm the previous meeting's minutes with matters arising.
- Chairperson's report.
- Treasurer's report.
- Changes to the constitution that members may want to make.
- Elect new office bearers.
- General.
- Close the meeting.

9. Finance

- 9.1 An accounting officer shall be appointed at the annual general meeting. His or her duty is to audit and check on the finances of the organization.
- 9.2 The treasurer's job is to control the day-to-day finances of the organization. The treasurer shall arrange for all funds to be put into a bank account in the name of the organization. The treasurer must also keep proper records of all the finances.
- 9.3 Whenever funds are taken out of the bank account, the chairperson and at least two other members of the organization must sign the withdrawal or cheque.

- 9.4 The financial year of the organization ends on **eg 31 March**
- 9.5 The organization's accounting records and reports must be ready and handed to the Director of Nonprofit Organizations within six months after the financial year-end.
- 9.6 If the organization has funds that can be invested, the funds may only be invested with registered financial institutions. These institutions are listed in Section 1 of the Financial Institutions (Investment of Funds) Act, 1984. Or the organization can get securities that are listed on a licensed stock exchange as set out in the Stock Exchange Control Act, 1985. The organization can go to different banks to seek advice on the best way to look after its funds.
- 9.7 All funding allocated to the organization must be used for the sole purposes to enhance and develop the organizations goals, objectives and vision. This may include payment of services carried out of behalf of the organization.

10. Changes to the constitution

- 10.1 The constitution can be changed by a resolution. The resolution has to be agreed upon and passed by not less than two thirds of the members who are at the annual general meeting or special general meeting. Members must vote at this meeting to change the constitution.
- 10.2 Two thirds of the members shall be present at a meeting (“the quorum”) before a decision to change the constitution is taken. Any annual general meeting may vote upon such a notion, if the details of the changes are set out in the notice referred to in 7.3
- 10.3 A written notice must go out not less than fourteen (14) days before the meeting at which the changes to the constitution are going to be proposed. The notice must indicate the proposed changes to the constitution that will be discussed at the meeting.
- 10.4 No amendments may be made which would have the effect of making the organization cease to exist.

11. Dissolution/Winding-up

- 11.1 The organization may close down if at least two-thirds of the members present and voting at a meeting convened for the purpose of considering such matter, are in favor of closing down.
- 11.2 When the organization closes down it has to pay off all its debts. After doing this, if there is property or money left over it should not be paid or given to members of the organization. It should be given in some way to another nonprofit organization that has similar objectives. The organization's general Meeting can decide what organization this should be.

Accepted and approved