

# THE CONSTITUTION OF CHRIST CHURCH BANGKOK

Amended 13th March 2011

As approved by the Annual General Meeting 9th March 1997, amended at the Annual General Meeting 3rd March 2002, and this version as amended by the Annual General Meeting 13th March 2011

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(As amended by the Annual General Meeting of 13th March 2011)

### PREAMBLE

Protestant Christians have gathered to worship together in Thailand throughout early western interaction with the Kingdom of Siam. The formal establishment of Christ Church at Convent Road is firmly aligned to the Royal Gift, first given by H.M. King Mongkul, Rama IV in 1861, and then reiterated when H.M. King Chulalongkorn, Rama V, gave the land upon which the present church was built. According to the deed of 1861, this is to be a church “for all Protestants at present days and future”. Christ Church was thus established as a church which all Protestants may consider as ‘their’ church.

Based on historic connections Christ Church has developed into a parish in the Anglican Church in Thailand, the Diocese of Singapore, and the Church in the Province of Southeast Asia, part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. The Incumbent is thus known as the Vicar of Christ Church and shall be licensed and appointed by the Bishop at the invitation of the Parochial Church Council (hereafter, PCC). The Parish of Christ Church shall take its place within the family of the diocese through its representatives at Synod and within the Deanery.

The Parish of Christ Church shall consist of the English-language congregation, the Thai-speaking congregation, and other language congregations as may be established at the discretion of the PCC. The PCC may allow each congregation to maintain a Management Council to be chaired by the Vicar’s appointee, and reporting to the PCC.

Christ Church welcomes all Christian worshippers and seekers of knowledge of the Christian faith and affirms its role and place as a home for all Protestant believers.

### ARTICLE I THE ELECTORAL ROLL OF THE PARISH

1. BAPTISED PERSONS, aged 16 years or older (in good standing of the Anglican Church or any other Christian Church) who are regular worshippers at Christ Church Bangkok, and not enrolled at another church in Thailand. Upon application to the Electoral Roll Officer and after approval by the PCC, they shall be enrolled on the Electoral Roll.

2. THE ELECTORAL ROLL of the Parish shall be revised annually. Persons listed on the Electoral Roll of the parish who desire to continue on the Electoral Roll shall signify that fact annually by re-enrolling in person on the forms provided within the three calendar months preceding the Annual General Meeting.

## ARTICLE II ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. THERE SHALL BE HELD ANNUALLY, not later in the year than the fourth Sunday after Easter, the Annual General Meeting of those whose names are on the current Electoral Roll of Christ Church Parish.

(a) Announcement of the Annual General Meeting shall be conveyed by the Chairperson (the Vicar) or, in the case of a vacancy in the Incumbency, by the Churchwardens, by means of a notice to be affixed on or near the main door of Christ Church for a period including the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting and by means of an announcement to be distributed in electronic or hard copy to all persons whose names appear on the Electoral Roll.

(b) The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such a place and on such a date and at such an hour as shall be directed by the PCC or in the absence of any such directions, as shall be appointed by the Chairperson.

(c) The Vicar shall serve as Chairperson of the Annual General Meeting.

(d) During a vacancy in the Incumbency of the parish, or when the Chairperson is incapacitated by illness or any other cause, either Churchwarden or some other person appointed by the PCC, shall have all the powers vested in the Chairperson under Article II of this Constitution.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING shall be as follows:

(a) To receive from the PCC:

(i) A report on the work of the parish by the Vicar, together with a presentation of plans and priorities for the coming year.

(ii) A report on the financial status of the parish by the Hon. Treasurer.

(iii) The audited accounts of the parish for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December immediately preceding the meeting.

(iv) A report upon the fabric, goods, and ornaments of Christ Church by the Churchwardens.

(v) An estimate of the cost of maintaining the buildings and grounds of the church and providing for the ministries of the church for the current year presented by the Churchwardens.

(b) To receive from the Vicar the nomination of one Churchwarden (Vicar's Warden) and to elect a second Churchwarden (People's Warden).

(c) To elect the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary from candidates nominated by the PCC.

(d) To elect member(s) to the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Singapore (1 member for each 100 members of the electoral roll). Synod elections occur every three years.

(e) To elect a member(s) to represent Christ Church (English) congregation on the Anglican Church in Thailand Council. (1 member for each 100 members of the electoral roll). Elections to occur every three years.

(f) To elect eight other lay persons to be members of the PCC.

(g) Names of candidates to be office bearers or to be members of the PCC must be on the Electoral Roll of Christ Church at least one month prior to the Annual General Meeting. Candidates shall be nominated in writing to the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council at least by the Sunday before the AGM. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to ensure that printed information regarding each candidate shall be made available at the AGM. This information shall include each candidate's name, occupation, number of years in Christ Church, listing of other church offices held here or elsewhere, and projected length of stay in Bangkok. Nominations for the PCC will close on the Sunday immediately preceding the AGM, until the time of the AGM.

3. NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS OFFICE BEARERS OR AS MEMBERS

OF THE PCC may be proposed from the floor during the Annual General Meeting, provided {1} that such nominations are made and seconded by persons whose names are on the Electoral Roll of the parish and, {2} that the information in writing described in Article II, Section 2(e) of this Constitution is immediately distributed to members of the meeting.

4. COPIES OF ALL REPORTS AND PROPOSALS required under Article II, Section 2(a) of this constitution shall be made available in the church two weeks before the Annual General Meeting, in hard copy and electronic format, and shall be open for free discussion before they are proposed for adoption.

5. IT SHALL BE OPEN TO ANY MEMBER OF THE MEETING to ask any question about parochial church matters or to bring about a discussion in any matter of parochial or general church interest by moving a general resolution or by making any particular recommendation to the Council concerning the fulfillment of its duties.

6. AT EVERY ELECTION, every person whose name is on the Electoral Roll of Christ Church is entitled to vote. Persons eligible to vote who are unable to be present may secure an absentee ballot from the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council. Such ballots will include only the names of those who have been nominated in writing in accordance with Article II, Section 2(e) of this Constitution.

7 VOTING AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING shall be by secret ballot. Members will sign against their name on the Electoral Roll when receiving their ballot paper. The eight persons who receive the eight highest shares of the total number of votes cast shall be elected as members of the PCC. In the event of a tie-vote between candidates in eighth place, the Chairperson shall cast the tie-breaking vote.

8. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED in Article II, Section 7 (above), no licensed clergy shall vote in the election of the office bearers or members of the Parochial Church Council.

9. FORTY PERSONS whose names are on the Electoral Roll of the Parish or one third of such persons, whichever is smaller, shall be a quorum.

10. THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE AMENDED only by an Annual General Meeting or by an Extraordinary General Meeting.

### ARTICLE III EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

1. IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, the Chairperson or Churchwardens may convene an Extraordinary General Meeting, provided that he or they must do so on receipt of a written petition signed by not fewer than forty persons whose names are on the Electoral Roll of Christ Church.

2. THE PROVISIONS OF THE RULES relating to the convening, conduct, membership, and quorum of the Annual General Meeting described in Article II of this Constitution shall, with the necessary modifications regarding agenda, also apply to an Extraordinary General Meeting.

### ARTICLE IV COMPOSITION OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

1. THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) shall consist of:

- (a) The Vicar of Christ Church
- (b) Other licensed priests and deaconesses appointed by the Bishop, without voting rights.
- (c) The Churchwardens, ex officio
- (d) The Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary
- (e) The eight lay members elected at the Annual General Meeting. If up to four members resign the PCC may appoint persons to replace those members. If more than four members resign, there should be an Extraordinary General Meeting to elect replacements.
- (f) elected members of Diocesan Synod (1 synod member for each 100 members of the electoral roll).
- (g) elected members, of the Anglican Church in Thailand General Council (1 General Council member for each 100 members of the electoral roll).

(h) One representative from the Thai Management Council, without voting rights.

**2. CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE PCC**

(a) The Vicar shall be Chairperson of the PCC.

(b) The Vicar's Warden shall be Vice- chairperson of the PCC.

(c) In the absence of the Vicar, or during a vacancy in the Incumbency, the Vicar's Warden shall preside.

(d) In the absence of both Chairperson and Vice-chairperson, the People's Warden shall preside.

(e) The Vicar, or the Churchwarden presiding, may delegate practical responsibility for facilitating PCC meetings to any PCC member.

3. A QUORUM SHALL CONSIST of 5 elected members one of whom should be a church officer (warden, secretary or treasurer).

**ARTICLE V  
POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

1. IT SHALL BE THE PRIMARY DUTY OF THE PCC to cooperate with the Vicar in the initiation, conduct and development of Christian ministries both within the Parish and outside of it.

2. IN PARTICULAR, the PCC shall be charged with the following:

(a) To select and recommend a new Incumbent for appointment by the Bishop and to conclude with the new Incumbent his terms of service.

(b) To review and act upon proposals of the Vicar which have met with the approval of the PCC.

(c) The conduct of the financial affairs of Christ Church including the collection and administration of all moneys which may be raised for Church purposes, and the keeping of accounts in relation to such affairs and moneys.

(d) The care, maintenance, preservation, and insurance of all the property and grounds of Christ Church, and the goods and ornaments thereof.

(e) The presentation of a report to the Annual General Meeting on its proceedings and on the financial affairs of the parish.

(f) In consultation with the Vicar, the employment of such staff as may be necessary for the effective ministry and administration of the affairs of Christ Church and responsibility for the appointment or dismissal of such staff and for their terms of employment.

(g) The appointment, in consultation with the Vicar, of such commissions, committees, or persons as shall be considered necessary for the assistance of the PCC in carrying out its duties.

(h) The appointment, in consultation with the Vicar, of an Electoral Roll Officer, if that be deemed necessary by the PCC.

3. THE PCC SHALL NORMALLY hold meetings monthly except that not more than two calendar months shall elapse between meetings.

4. ANY MEMBER OF THE PCC who is absent for more than three consecutive meetings without good and valid reason shall automatically cease to be a member of the PCC. Apologies for absence must be reported to the secretary.

APPROVED:

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Date

AMMENDED at the AGM of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011