

SANDERSTEAD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

THE COVENANT AND CONSTITUTION

THE COVENANT

At a special service held at Sanderstead Memorial Hall on 19th January 1933, the following Covenant was recited and signed by forty-five men and women who thereby enrolled themselves as the first Members of the Church.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in the conscious presence of His Spirit, we, who have subscribed names, believing that there is necessity for the work and witness of another Church in this district, and that Divine grace will be given as sufficient for our needs, and with the desire and purpose to serve Christ and his Church to the glory of God, give ourselves to him and to each other in Holy Covenant, promising to walk with God and one another in all the privileges and duties of Church Fellowship, Worship and Service as He shall enable and direct us.

CONSTITUTION

1. Name:

The Church shall be called "Sanderstead United Reformed Church" and shall be constituted within the United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom.

2. Membership:

Candidates for Confirmation and Church Membership, on Profession of Faith or by transfer from other Christian Churches shall, after approval by the Elders' Meeting, be proposed for acceptance by Church Meeting. After acceptance, the names of the new members shall be placed on the Roll of Church Members. They shall be received into the fellowship at the earliest convenient occasion.

Members who have moved away but desire to retain their Membership can do so. Others who wish to retain links with the Church shall be transferred to a list of Church Friends.

The Elders' Meeting shall each year make recommendations to a Church Meeting for the revision of the Roll of Members.

3. Government:

Subject to the provisions of the URC Trust Deed, the Church shall be governed by the members of the Church. Church Meeting shall elect Elders to serve on the Elders' Meeting which is responsible to the Church Meeting.

4. Church Meeting:

A meeting of Church Members shall be held not less than once in each quarter. Visitors may attend, but may only speak with permission of the Chairperson of the meeting. Only Church Members are entitled to vote at such meetings.

At any Church Meeting, other than a Special Church Meeting, a member may raise any matter concerning the life and work of the Church. However, if the matter raised is judged by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote to be of special importance, a decision shall not be taken at that Church Meeting unless at least 75% of those present and entitled to vote shall have voted in favour.

5. Special Church Meeting:

A special Church Meeting shall be convened for the Calling of a Minister. A special Church Meeting shall also be convened for any major alteration of the Church Constitution and for any major items of

extraordinary business. Whether such alteration or item of extraordinary business is major shall be decided by Church Meeting.

Notice of a Special Church Meeting shall be conveyed to every Church Member on the Church Roll at least 14 days before the date of the meeting and such notice shall contain the exact wording of the proposal(s) to be brought forward at that meeting. Additionally, an announcement shall be made at each Act of Worship on the two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting. In order for a resolution to be carried at a Special Church Meeting, it shall be necessary for at least two thirds of those present and entitled to vote to have voted in favour. No vote shall be taken by proxy, but votes may be given by ballot, or otherwise as the meeting directs.

The Elders' Meeting may call a Special Church Meeting at any time; or shall do so on a written requisition signed by at least 20% of those on the Roll of Members. The procedure for such a meeting shall be as outlined above.

6. The Calling of a Minister:

When a vacancy shall occur in the Pastorate, the procedure for Scoping and Deployment, according to the Southern Synod of the URC, shall be followed. The same procedure shall be followed in the appointment of an Interim Moderator.

The Elders' Meeting, in consultation with the Synod Moderator — having obtained and considered the fullest information, shall submit one name for consideration by the Church.

At the Special Church Meeting convened to consider the calling of a Minister, voting shall be by ballot and the decision reported to the appropriate Synod Committee.

7. Eldership:

Elders are Church Members who are called to share with the Minister in the pastoral oversight and leadership of the Church. Every Church Member shall be entrusted to the pastoral care of an Elder.

Eldership is regarded as a life commitment. Elders are elected by Church Meeting, Ordained to their office and Inducted to serve on the Elders' Meeting for such limited period as determined by the Church Meeting, having received the recommendation of the Elders' Meeting.

Prior to nominations being requested, the Elders' Meeting shall advise Church Meeting on the number of Serving Elders required. The Elders' Meeting shall consist of the Minister(s) and the Serving Elders. For Elders' Meetings, a quorum exists when more than 50% of the serving Elders are present.

At the end of their period of office, as determined by the Church Meeting and after having received the recommendation of the Elders' Meeting, Serving Elders shall not be eligible for re-election for one year. Officers of the Church and the Safeguarding Lead shall be eligible for immediate re-election.

8. Church Officers:

The Officers of the Church shall consist of a Church Secretary (or Secretaries), an Assistant Church Secretary, a Church Treasurer (or Treasurers) and an Assistant Church Treasurer who shall be serving Elders nominated by Elders' Meeting and elected by Church Meeting.

9. Election of Elders:

All members who have been on the Roll of Members for at least 12 months and are over 18 years of age shall be eligible for election provided they have been nominated by at least 6 members or have been nominated by the Elders' Meeting. Each member of the Church shall be entitled to make Nominations in writing to the appointed Church Officer at least 21 days before the appointed Church Meeting. All those with the required number of nominations shall be informed and asked to state whether or not they would be willing to serve if elected.

Voting shall be at the Church Meeting by secret ballot of those eligible to vote. The election of serving Elders shall normally take place at the November Church Meeting. Those elected shall take office on the first Morning Communion in January.

Church Meeting shall have the power to fill any interim vacancies that may occur among the serving Elders. Such elections may take place at any Church Meeting and shall be conducted in the manner prescribed.

An Elder elected to serve for a period of less than two years shall, on retiring, be eligible for re-election immediately thereafter.

10. General:

The written consent of the Elders' Meeting shall be obtained before any new enterprise is launched under the auspices of the Church.

The constitution and/or rules of every Church Society or Organisation shall be submitted to the Elders' Meeting for approval.

The Minister shall be President of all Church Societies and Organisations unless, with the Minister's written consent, other arrangements are made.

Any Church Society or Organisation desiring to appeal for financial help shall first obtain written consent from the Elders' Meeting.

The Minister, Church Secretary/Secretaries and Church Treasurer/Assistant Church Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of all Committees concerned with the work and witness of the Church.

11. Alteration to the Constitution:

A revised constitution shall show the date of revision.

EXTRACTS FROM THE URC TRUST DEED

Extracts from the URC Trust Deed may be seen by any Church Member on application to a Church Secretary.

Agreed by Church Meeting on 1st March 2026.

Carline McHenry

~~Interim Moderator~~
off as

M. J. Wilson

Church Secretary

R. L. W. [Signature]

Church Treasurer

11/3/26,

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