CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH CONSTITUTION

INTRODUCTION

A This constitution is set up as a guideline to the Cornerstone Christian Church, formerly Waiuku Assembly of God. It is not meant to be a water tight legal document, neither is it intended to be unreasonably restrictive. It is meant to give guidelines where the Bible and accepted meeting procedures do not throw light on specific situations. It's spirit is much more important than the letter of its statements.

B For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith, where the Holy Spirit may be honoured according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility, and the privilege of propagating the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands: we, whose names appear on the Assembly membership role under date adopted do hereby recognise ourselves as a local Assembly in fellowship with and part of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, New Zealand Inc, and adopt the following Articles of the Church order and submit to them.

ARTICLES

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of The Assembly shall be Cornerstone Christian Church (hereafter called "The Assembly").

ARTICLE 2. OBJECTIVES

The general objectives of The Assembly shall be:-

a) To further the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God and the advancement of the Christian faith consistent with the Statement Of Fundamental Truths here in after contained within New Zealand and overseas and to work for the building up and renewal of the Christian Church.

b) To meet for the worship of God, the preaching and teaching of the Word of God, and to administer the sacraments of Baptism and the Lords Supper according to the commandments of the Lord.

c) To engage in the propagation of the Christian Faith by the establishing of missionary work and/or assisting existing Missionary work in New Zealand and overseas, by the production and distribution of Christian literature, audio visuals, music and the like, and by whatever means The Assembly may deem necessary.

d) To render the spiritual oversight care and assistance, and such other help as may be deemed practical and advisable, to people in need, especially those in membership or close association with the Assembly.

e) To make donations to assist, undertake the oversight of, or in any way co-operate with any other individuals, societies, Assemblies or churches, or any other organisations having objects similar to those of this Assembly, as may be deemed proper within New Zealand or anywhere else.

f) To establish churches helping them to grow and become independent under the umbrella of the Assemblies of God.

g) To work in co-operative fellowship with other Assemblies associated in the Assemblies of God, New Zealand Inc.

ARTICLE 3. PREROGATIVE

Section 1:

This Assembly shall have the right to govern itself according to the standards of the New Testaments scriptures, "endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace ... till we all come in the unity of the Faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto the perfect man unto the measure of the statue of the fullness of Christ"
Ephesians 4:3-23.

Section 2:

To enable The Assembly to fulfil its objectives The Assembly may from time to time:-

a) Acquire, purchase, borrow, hold, manage, own, lease, rent, sell, convey, mortgage, holdings or properties situated in New Zealand or in any other country, and to do all or any such things upon such terms and conditions, and any further with respect to any investments to hold or vary the same, as at any time may be deemed advisable.

b) Accept by transfer, conveyance, gift, demise, bequest, or otherwise from any person or persons, trustee or trustees, board, company, council, corporation or any other society, any real or personal property whether subject to any existing trusts or encumbrances or not, but also that The Assembly may decline to accept any such transfer, gift or otherwise.

c) Do any such other things as are incidental or conductive to the attainment of all or any of the above objectives.

ARTICLE 4: AFFILIATION

While maintaining its inherent right to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this Assembly shall voluntarily enter into full co-operative fellowship with the Assemblies of like precious faith associated with the Assemblies of God, New Zealand (Inc.), and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

These responsibilities shall include support for the National Bible College and National Office by means of a levy as set by General Council.

ARTICLE 5: STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us. No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it covers our present needs as to these fundamental truths.

5.1 The Inspiration of the Scriptures.

We believe that the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God and are the revelation of God to humanity; they are the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.

5.2 The One True God

We believe that the one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the creator of heaven and earth and the redeemer of all people. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We speak of God as a Trinity or as one being of three persons. These three persons are coequal, coexistent, coeternal and consubstantial. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are never identical as to person, nor confused as to relation, nor divided in respect to the Godhead, nor opposed as to cooperation. Father, Son and Holy Spirit exist in, with and through each other; united eternally in fellowship, love and common purpose. In their fellowship and community they share all they are and have in communion, openness and self-giving love. Hence, no person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others.

5.3 The Lord Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is one, but He has two natures, the human and the divine. He is truly God and truly man, composed of body and rational soul. He is consubstantial with the Father and the Holy Spirit in His deity and consubstantial with

humankind in His humanity, except for sin. In His deity He eternally proceeds from the Father, and in His humanity He was conceived by the Virgin Mary, through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. The distinction between the two natures is not diminished by their union, but the specific character of each nature is preserved and united in one person. Christ is not divided into two persons; He is one person, the Son of God. The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary work on the cross, His bodily resurrection from the dead, and His exaltation to the right hand of God the Father.

5.4 The Fall of Humanity

We believe human beings were created good and upright, being made in the image of God. However, they became sinful by voluntary transgression of God's command and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.

5. 5 The Kingdom of God

We believe that Jesus Christ came to inaugurate the Kingdom of God. This Kingdom is therefore already present but is not yet fully realised. It is seen wherever God's reign is extended and is a present reality in the hearts and lives of believers. The Church is empowered by the Holy Spirit as the agency by which the Kingdom is extended. The Kingdom will be seen in its fullness when Christ returns at the end of this age.

5.6 The Salvation of Humanity

We believe that a person's only hope of salvation is through the atoning work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who shed His blood on the cross that all may be saved. Salvation is received through repentance and faith and the confession that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead. Being justified by grace through faith, we receive the righteousness of Christ, regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit and become heirs of God according to the hope of eternal life.

5.7 Sanctification

We believe that sanctification initially occurs at the time of salvation. It is not only a declaration that a believer is holy, but also a progressive lifelong process of separation from evil as believers continually draw closer to God and become more Christ-like. When Christ returns the Holy Spirit will complete the work of sanctification in our lives. In Christ we become a new creation, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

5.8 Christian Character

We believe that the work of sanctification in the life of a believer results in a life lived in fidelity with Jesus Christ and the continuing transformational work of the Spirit, which is evidenced by the fruits which the Spirit develops within us, these being; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

5.9 The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

We believe that all believers are entitled to, should eagerly expect and seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to the command of Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Church. This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

received at the new birth. We give continuing emphasis to the New Testament pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. This experience:-

(a) Enables them to evangelise in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs.

(b) Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God.

(c) Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the worship of God through Christ, the edifying of the Body of Christ and the evangelisation of the world.

5.10 The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the gifts of the Spirit continue to be experienced by the Church. They are given to empower the believer for life, ministry and witness. They are supernatural having their origin in God, but are also incarnational in that they operate in and through believers. They are intended to be part of the normal spiritual exercise of every believer.

5.11 The Ordinances of the Church

We believe in baptism by immersion in water following salvation, in accordance with Scripture. We believe Holy Communion, also known as The Lord's Supper, is to be celebrated by all believers until He returns.

5.12 The Church and Mission

We believe that the Church, being the body of Christ, is graced with gifts for the fulfilment of the great Commission. Every believer is an integral part of the universal Church and finds a place of connection and belonging in a local church. God's purpose concerning humanity is to seek and to save those who are lost, to draw humanity into fellowship, and to build a body of believers being transformed into the image of His Son. The primary reason for being of the Assemblies of God in New Zealand as part of the Church is:-

(a) To be an agency of God for evangelising the world and extending the Kingdom of God.

(b) To be a corporate body in which people may worship God.

(c) To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of believers, who are being made into the likeness of . His Son.

5.13 Christian Ministry

We believe that a divinely called and biblically ordained body of ministers has been provided by Christ for the purpose of building His Kingdom through leading the Church to evangelise the world, the worship of God and in building a body of believers, who are being transformed to the likeness of Jesus. We also believe that every member of the body of Christ is called to active service.

5.14 Men and Women in Leadership and Ministry

We believe that both women and men are fully capable of leading, ministering, preaching, and teaching, as the Spirit comes upon all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ without respect to ethnicity, age, or sex.

Spiritual gifts, the essential tools of ministry, are given to both men and women. The Pentecostal ministry to which men or women, of every age and ethnicity, aspire must always be a divine calling, confirmed by the Spirit who sovereignly distributes gifts and callings without differentiation.

5.15 Divine Healing

We believe that divine healing is an integral part of the gospel of the Kingdom of God. Healing, health and wholeness for the whole person is provided for in the atoning work of Christ.

5.16 Marriage and Family

We believe that marriage is a covenant commitment established by God and confirmed by Jesus Christ as a life-long relationship between one man and one woman. We encourage believers to marry within the community of faith. Christian marriage is a reflection of the love, purity and permanence between Christ and the Church. We encourage husbands and wives experiencing marital difficulties to seek healing and reconciliation through the ministry of Christ. We acknowledge divorce may occur and seek to support those who find themselves in this situation. Children are regarded as "a heritage of the Lord". Raising them is therefore considered as a sacred trust.

5.17 The Return of Christ

We believe in the physical and visible return of Christ. At this time those who have died believing in Christ will be resurrected. They will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, along with those believers who are alive at the time of His return. This is the hope of all believers, in all ages. We believe in the millennial reign of Christ.

5.18 Judgment

We believe that every person who has ever lived will face a day of final judgment. The righteous will be judged for rewards at the judgment seat of Christ. The unbelievers will face eternal separation from God.

5.19 The New Heavens and the New Earth

We believe in the promise of a new heavens and a new earth, the eternal home of the righteous.

ARTICLE 6: ORDINANCES

Section 1 Water Baptism

The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water shall be available to all those who repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls. The Assembly will encourage all believers to be baptised. **Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 2:12, Acts 2:38.**

Section 2 The Lords Supper

The ordinance of the Lords Supper shall be observed weekly unless impractical.
Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

ARTICLE 7: ASSEMBLY STRUCTURE

People attending the Assembly do not need to be members. However, to have voting rights people must be members. Leadership and Management shall be provided to The Assembly through the care of, Pastors, Spiritual Oversight, and other members of a Board appointed by the Assembly.

The Assembly established an entity with the legal name of "Waiuku Assembly of God Trust" now known as the "Cornerstone Christian Church." The board that operates under the Trust Deed of this entity is known as the "Cornerstone Christian Church Board," hereinafter called "the Board".

The Board shall have, and at its discretion exercise, the functions, powers and authorities, as may reasonably be necessary or expedient for the fulfilment of the objectives, functions and business of The Assembly.

For the maintenance and development of the fellowship and the effective functioning of The Assembly, groups or departments may be organised, or amended as the Board may determine.

The Board does not have primary responsibility for the services or for the spiritual oversight of The Assembly

The Spiritual Oversight shall have the exclusive responsibility for the Spiritual Government and Oversight of The Assembly and will work with the Senior Pastor(s) to proceed the Objectives and Vision of the Church.

ARTICLE 8: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Definition

Membership is basically acknowledging this Assembly as one's Spiritual home. It should be a two-way relationship.

a) A living commitment by the Leadership to the people.
b) By the people to the Lord, to the Leadership to this Assembly and to each other. **Hebrews 13:7,17 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13**,

Section 2. Eligibility for Membership

A living commitment by the Leadership to the people.

1) Membership of the Assembly is available to all those over the age of eighteen (18) years.
2) Give evidence of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
3) Voluntarily subscribe to the Tenets of Faith of The Assembly.
4) Agree to be governed by the Constitution of The Assembly.
5) Have attended the services regularly for at least three consecutive months, (except in exceptional circumstances or in the case of one called to the office of Pastor/Assistant Pastor).
6) Be accepted by the Spiritual Oversight into full Membership with voting rights provided the above clauses have been fulfilled.

Responsibilities of the Church Oversight to the Members

1) A consistent sharing of the truth and feeding from the Word of God.
1 Peter 5:2.

2) Offering correction for those drifting into error, according to the Word of God.
2 Timothy 4:2.

3) To commit itself to the Members by their prayers, time etc. and a seeking to help members grow into the ministry that Jesus has for them.

Requirements of Members

1) To be Born Again by the Spirit of God.
John 3:3-16.

2) To agree with the Tenets of Faith.

3) To support the Assembly with their Tithes, Offerings and Prayers.
Malachi 3:8-10.

4) To seek the Lord as to their part in the ministry of The Assembly.

5) To desire to submit to the oversight of The Assembly.
Hebrews 13:17.

Section 3. Voting Rights

All members who conform to Section 1 and 2, and who:-

a) Attend regularly the Church services and living consistently Christian lives,

b) Are in good standing with The Assembly and are contributing to its financial support,

c) Have been admitted to the fellowship as a member in a public service,

d) may vote at all special meetings of The Assembly.

Section 4. Disqualification

a) Members who, without good cause, absent themselves from the regular services of The Assembly for a period of three consecutive months or more, or who, while attending other church services freely, only occasionally attend the regular services of The Assembly over such periods, and who cease to contribute of their means to its support.

b) Who may be out of harmony with its teachings or its ministries. e.g.. continued disregard of the conditions for membership or unscriptural conduct or doctrinal departure from the Statement Of Fundamental Truths held by this Church shall be considered sufficient grounds upon which any person may be disqualified as a member. Such discipline shall be PRAYERFULLY administered according to the scriptures. Romans 16:17-18, Romans 1 Corinthians 5:9-13, 2 Thessalonians 3:11-15, Ephesians 4:3,13.

c) Who shall be under proven charges for misconduct or who may have fallen under condemnation through sinful or worldly practices, (Matthew 18:15-17,35), shall lose their membership and voting privileges until they are restored to the fellowship, their standing to be settled by the definite action of the Spiritual Oversight. Galatians 6:1-5.

Section 5. Determination Of Membership

Authority to make decisions with respect for membership, disqualification from membership and restoration to membership of any member disqualified, and transference of membership to

or from other churches or Assemblies, shall be vested in the Board as herein after defined. The Board shall revise the Assembly roll at least once a year. The Board shall consult with the Spiritual Oversight in difficult situations. A person or persons can resign voluntarily from membership.

Section 6. Membership Transference.

Members in good standing who desiring to transfer to another congregation may apply to the Pastor or Secretary for a Letter of Transfer, which shall be granted on the approval of the Board, the letter signed by the Pastor and Secretary of the Church.

Section 7. Youth Membership.

An additional register of membership shall be kept for children and youth. Such membership shall not incur voting rights, but will receive all the benefits and responsibilities of membership as may be appropriate to children and to young people.

ARTICLE 9: THE BOARD

Section 1.

The Board shall consist of the following officers:-

- Senior Pastor(s) and other members of the Pastoral Team as appropriate.
- A representative of the Spiritual Oversight.
- A representative of the WAG Community Trust.
- Elected Board Members.

The Board shall not be less than five in total, but can be enlarged by a two thirds majority of the Board.

The Board shall meet as required (usually monthly) for the transaction of the routine business for The Assembly. At this meeting an itemised monthly financial report shall be presented. The quorum at meetings of the Board shall consist of not less than half its members of the Board.

The Pastor of The Assembly, if present and willing to act, shall be chairperson of all meetings of the board, but should he or she be absent or unwilling to act, the members present may elect a chairperson. The chairperson shall have a casting vote.

Board Meetings will be attended by Board Members and invited attendees only, and the Board shall conduct it's affairs in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act. Failure to do so shall be considered improper conduct.

Section 2. Secretary and Treasurer

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed within or by the Board, by a two thirds majority of the Board Members. A Board member or members appointed from within the Board, shall retain all the rights and privileges as a Board Member. In the case where the Secretary and/or Treasurer is appointed by the Board, he/she shall be an advisory to the Board, and shall not be ex-offico member of the Board, unless the Board co-opted their appointment onto the Board as in Article 11 and subject to Article 9, section 5.

Section 3. Duties of Secretary

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Church Board and of the Annual and Special Business Meetings of the Assembly. The Secretary shall be responsible for

maintaining an up to date record of the membership of the Assembly, and shall perform any other clerical work necessary to the proper discharge of his/her duties. The Secretary shall be responsible for the safe custody of all legal documents and of The Assembly Seal.

Section 4. Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for ensuring the all the finances of The Assembly are administered in accordance with good accounting practice and there is an appropriate level of summary reports to the board. The practices and procedures are also to ensure all funds are accounted for and there are audit trails for receipts and disbursements.

Section 5. Specialised Personnel

Specialised Personnel (such as Missions secretary, Business Administrator) may be appointed to the Board as required by a two thirds majority of the Board Members and then ratified by the members of The Assembly at the Annual General Business Meeting or Special Business Meetings of The Assembly.

ARTICLE 10: OFFICERS

Section 1. Pastors

A) SENIOR PASTOR

1) **Qualifications**
The Senior Pastor/s shall be in good standing with the General Council of Assemblies of God in New Zealand and/or the General Council of Assemblies of God in the Pastors home country. They must be sound in Faith and Loyal to those fundamentals that form the doctrinal basis of the fellowship. They shall be one whose life and conduct conform to the scriptural and Assemblies of God standards for the 1Timothy, 3:2-7, Titus 1:6-9, 1 Peter 5:2-3. - (Page 14 NATIONAL Constitution).

2) **Duties**
They shall be an ex-offico member of all committees and departments.
They shall provide for all the services of the Church and shall arrange for all special meetings - but if circumstances make it necessary, there shall be collaboration between the Pastor and the Spiritual Oversight on these matters.

No person shall be invited to preach or speak in the Church, and no recording, video, film or play shall be shown in connection with any department of the Church without the Pastors approval. A preview of any film shall be arranged at the Pastors request if he so desires. In addition no literature or printed matter shall be distributed on the premises by any person without the Pastors authority.

3) **Appointment**
The Senior Pastor is to be recommended by a unanimous decision of the Pastors and Spiritual Oversight and the appointment ratified by at least a two thirds majority of the Board.

The Tenure of the Senior Pastor and the terms and conditions of their appointment shall be determined by the mutual consent between them and the Board at the time the call to them is extended and accepted.
Such terms can be reviewed from time to time by both parties.
Their Tenure will cease if they resign or are removed due to proven immoral conduct,

radical departure from the **Statement Of Fundamental Truths** or equally proven serious charge.
When a vacancy exists a Pastor can be asked to preach on occasion before a call is finally given so the Board can prayerfully inquire and allow full consideration to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

4) **Vacancy (For all Pastors, not just Senior Pastor)**

a) Resignation of a Pastor
In the event of the Senior Pastor resigning they shall give a minimum of sixty days notice to the Board. This period can be shortened or increased by the mutual consent of the Pastor and the Church Board.

b) Removal of a Pastor
Removal of a Pastor due to proven immoral conduct, radical departure from the Tenet of Faith or any other equally serious proven charges. The Church Board shall be empowered to suspend or remove the Pastor where three quarters of the Board is satisfied that the charge is proved and justifies a removal or suspension from office, the said Pastor having been given the opportunity to be heard by the Spiritual Oversight. The Executive Council will be notified that such a meeting is taking place and the Pastor can have a member of the Executive Council present. A full report with evidence, shall be submitted to the Executive Council through the General Secretary and the Executive Council shall be invited to meet with the Church Board for a full discussion of the matter, with the Pastors knowledge. The Church shall be briefly informed of the action taken and the reason therefore at a meeting especially convened for that purpose.

B) ASSOCIATE PASTORS

1) **Qualifications**
The **qualifications** required of the Associate Pastor shall be the same as those pertaining to the Senior Pastor in 1, of the above.

2) **Duties and Appointments**
Associate Pastors will be under the direction of and be responsible to the Senior Pastor(s) in the assigned Spiritual work and oversight of the Assembly and perform such other duties as delegated to them by the Senior Pastor. In the absence of the Senior Pastor, the Associate Pastor may be deputised for the Pastor in all respects.

Associate Pastors shall be recommended by the unanimous decision of the Senior Pastor(s), Spiritual Oversight and the appointment ratified by at least two thirds majority of the Board. The Tenure of the Associate Pastor(s) and the terms and conditions of their appointment shall be determined by mutual consent between them and the Board at the time the call to them is extended and accepted. Such terms can be reviewed from time to time by the Board. Vacancy can occur as mentioned in section 1 (A) 4, at which time Tenure ceases.

3) **Vacancy**
If the Senior Pastors position is vacant, the Associate Pastor MAY BE required to deputise as Senior Pastor but will not automatically be appointed Senior Pastor.

C) OTHER PASTORS

Other Pastors of the Assembly may be appointed by the unanimous decision of the Senior Pastor, the Assistant Pastor and Spiritual Oversight, and ratified by at least two thirds majority of the Church Board.

Such Pastors shall assist the Senior Pastor and perform such duties as he may delegate to them. Such Pastors will not automatically be on the Board but may be co-opted on by a two thirds majority of the Board.

Section 2 Spiritual Oversight

The Pastor(s) should be recognised in their office as the Spiritual Overseer of the Church and as General Supervisor of all its activities.

Spiritual Oversight members shall assist and be under the direction of the Senior Pastor in the Spiritual work and oversight of the Church, to ensure the Objective and Vision of the Church. Spiritual Oversight members shall be persons whose lives and conduct conform to the scriptures **1 Timothy 3:1-7, 5:1&17, Titus 1:5-9**. and who have been filled with the Holy Spirit as taught by the Church in accordance with **Acts 2:4.**

Spiritual Oversight shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor in agreement with the Church Board or at least a two thirds majority. The recognition as a Spiritual Oversight member would be because they are already functioning in this office. Spiritual Oversight members shall hold this office during the period of their resident membership, (as a Spiritual Oversight member office shall be confined to the local church in which they are appointed,) subject to review by the Pastor and their peers unless they resign from office. If they absent themselves from the services for more than two months without just cause they automatically lose their Spiritual Oversight status. A Spiritual Oversight member can also be removed for proven immoral conduct, radical departure from the Statement Of Fundamental Truths or any other equally serious proven charges.

The Spiritual Oversight shall also act in the examination of applicants for membership and in the administration of discipline.

In the absence of a Senior Pastor, the Assistant Pastor shall deputise in all respects. In the absence of all Pastors services shall be arranged by the Spiritual Oversight.

Section 3 Board Members

These persons shall assist the Spiritual Oversight of The Assembly with the practical management of Church affairs.

1) Qualifications

A Board Members life and character shall conform to the scriptural pattern set out in 1 Timothy 3:8-13, and they shall show evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

A Board Member must be an actively involved member of The Assembly fulfilling the requirement of membership.

2) Appointments (Acts 6:3-6)

Board Members shall be nominated by members of the Assembly in writing at least 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Nominations should have a Proposer and a Seconder and the nominee must sign the written application. All nominations shall be reviewed by the Senior Pastor and Spiritual Oversight as to their suitability to hold office (e.g. Qualifications).

Nominations accepted by the Spiritual Oversight should be willing to present themselves to the membership as to their abilities to serve on the Board. Nominations will go forward to the Annual General Meeting for vote by secret ballot. In the case of

the number of nominations being less than the number of vacancies, the Board at its discretion can co-opt on to the Board a member to fill the vacancy, (Article 11).

Board members shall be elected for a period of two years. At the end of this period each member may offer themselves for re election.

The Board shall advise the members of the Assembly the number of Board Members required for the next year at least 28 days before the Annual General Meeting.

The appointment of a Board Member shall be reviewed annually by the Spiritual Oversight unless the Board Member resigns office, or absent themselves from services for more than 2 months without just cause where upon they automatically lose their office. Board Members must be willing to accept portfolios and execute the same under the direction of the Board. A Board Member can also be removed for proven immoral conduct, radical departure from the Statement Of Fundamental Truths or any other equally serious proven charges.

ARTICLE 11: STAFF AND SPECIALISED PERSONNEL

The Board after prayerful inquiry and judicious counsel, giving full consideration to the leading of the Holy Spirit, can select by unanimous decision, scripturally and where necessary professionally qualified personnel for areas of service in the Church. These areas could be in full-time employment (e.g. Clerical) and in some cases the persons may be co-opted on to the Board by the procedure outlined in Article 9 section 5.

ARTICLE 12 PROPERTY RIGHTS

Section 1

Any real property owned by The Assembly shall be held by the Board of The Assembly on behalf of The Assembly in accord with the Rules of the Trust Deed, shall be administered according to the decisions of the Board or Assembly, in accord with the terms of this constitution. All or any of the personal property held or administered on behalf of The Assembly shall be held and administered in the name of The Assembly by the Board in accord with the terms of the Constitution.

Section 2

No real or chattel property of The Assembly exceeding in value 10% of the previous financial years total income shall be sold, mortgaged or otherwise alienated without the same having been authorised by at least two thirds majority vote of the membership present at a Business Meeting of The Assembly.

Section 3

The Pastor and the Secretary of The Assembly shall certify in such conveyance, lease or mortgage, that the same has been duly authorised by the vote of the membership. Such certificates shall be held to be conclusive evidence thereof.

Section 4

In the event that The Assembly herein mentioned ceases to function as a church body, then the

said property, real or chattel, shall be transferred to the General Council of the Assemblies of God in New Zealand (Inc). The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall forthwith have full authority to use or dispose of the property at their discretion provided that the property or proceeds from the sale thereof are used in the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.

Section 5

In the event of a schism in the membership of this Assembly the property shall belong to that group holding to the original Statement Of Fundamental Truths and local form of Church Government as adjudicated by the Executive Council of the Assemblies of God in New Zealand Inc. (AGNZ).

ARTICLE 13: TRUSTEES

The Trustees shall be made up of the Church Board according to Article 9 Section 1,2,3,4, 5 to act as Trustees for and on behalf of Cornerstone Christian Church in accordance with the Declaration of the Trust Deed and Rules of the Waiuku Assembly of God Trust Board, or due amendments thereof.

ARTICLE 14: FINANCE

Section 1 Income

Funds for the maintenance of The Assembly shall be provided primarily by the voluntary contribution of the tithes and offerings of the members and friends of the organisation. Offerings shall be accepted by The Assembly at such times and in such ways as agreed upon by the Senior Pastor and the Church Board.
Malachi 3:10, Luke 6:38, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Section 2 Powers of the Church Board

All gifts and offerings whether of money or otherwise taken or given for any stated purpose shall, except with the express permission and consent of the donor or donors of such gifts and offerings, be applied to the purpose or purposes for which they are requested or designated, though the method of application of such gifts and offerings to such purposes shall, so far as consistent with such stated purposes be at the discretion of the Board. All other gifts, whether stated to be tithes or otherwise, shall be deemed to have been given with no restrictions and applied for the furtherance of any or all of the objects of The Assembly, at the discretion of the Board.

The Church Board shall determine salaries and remuneration's according reasonable weight to the Stipend Scale set by AGNZ. The Church Board shall have oversight of all financial matters in every department and itemised accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the various departments of the Church shall be submitted to the Senior Pastor and the Church Board at any reasonable time required.

All Church Board accounts and records shall be audited at the end of the Financial year which is June 30, by an independent auditor appointed by the Board. Departmental accounts will also be audited.

Section 3 Obligation of Church Departments

As far as practical and reasonable, each department of the Church shall contribute to the expenses and commitments of the Church as a whole, provided always that the legitimate

expenses and commitments of the respective departments shall have first call on their receipts.

Section 4 Remuneration

All permanent staff shall be given regular and adequate financial support, the amount and manner of which shall be determined by the Board in consultation with the Senior Pastor and shall be reviewed at least annually and ratified by the Church Board.

Section 5 Authority by Expenditure

The board shall fix an amount up to which the pastor has authority to approve expenditures without further consultation with the board. When Budget is approved, expenditure within Budget is released if money is available.
All proposed expenditure exceeding 10% of the previous financial year's total income (excluding salaries and motor vehicle expenses) on any single item shall first be referred to a meeting of the Church members. Such a transaction can be authorised by a two thirds majority.

ARTICLE 15 DEPARTMENTS AND COMMITTEES

Departments, Ministries and Committees shall be arranged as the need arises to assist in the fulfilment of the declared purpose of the Assembly. All organised departments shall be subordinate to the Assembly and shall contribute to the harmony and development of the whole. They shall be under the general supervision of the Pastors and Spiritual Oversight and shall provide reports when asked by same.

Appointment of persons to positions of responsibility within any department, Ministry or Committee shall be made by the Senior Pastors and ratified by the Spiritual Oversight. The appointment function may be delegated to department heads provided each appointment is duly ratified by the Spiritual Oversight.

ARTICLE 16: MEETINGS

Section 1 Public Worship

Meetings for public worship shall be held each Sunday and during the week as may be provided for under the direction of the Senior Pastor, or in their absence the Associate Pastor, or in their absence under the direction of the Church Spiritual Oversight. When necessary the Pastor and the Church Spiritual Oversight shall collaborate regarding arrangements for meetings.

Section 2 Annual Business Meeting

There shall be an annual Business Meeting of The Assembly. This meeting shall be held after the 30 June of each year when the accounts have been audited. The time and place shall be announced by the Pastor or Board Secretary, with due notice being given two consecutive Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 3 Special Business Meetings

Special Business Meetings shall be called as required and on the decision of a two thirds majority of the Board. The time and place to be announced by the Pastor or Board Secretary with due notice being given two consecutive Sundays prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE 17: POLICIES

Where appropriate the Board is responsible for ensuring policies and procedures are in place for church administration and activities.

The policies may be summarised into a single document or separated as the Board deems appropriate.

ARTICLE 18: AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a two thirds majority vote of the voting membership of The Assembly who are in attendance at any regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose, provided due notice of such proposed change shall have been made at all regular services at least two Sundays preceding the time of such a meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 50% of the voting membership.