



# CANON OF FOUNDATION

## THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR AUSTRALIA

Drafting effective from 19<sup>th</sup> September 2001

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR AUSTRALIA

## **Chapter 1 – Fundamental Declarations**

1. The Church of Our Saviour Australia is an independent denomination founded on the teachings of the Balance of Nature Creed and the belief in universal Divine spirits that are known from the primitive times of Christ and throughout history of humankind as God and Satan.
2. The Balance of Nature Creed teaches us that for all things of nature and for all things within the universe to exist there must be a balance throughout the cycle of life. In the cycle of nature and within the universe for each positive natural occurrence there will be a negative natural occurrence. It is these positive and negative occurrences that maintain a balanced foundation for life to exist.
3. It is the ultimate rule that God is the founder of creation. Creation of nature occurred through the accumulation of gas, particles and other matter. As set forth in the creeds, God and Satan form the respective positive and negative divine guidance over the Balance of Nature.
4. The Church will ever obey and promote the beliefs and teachings of the Balance of Nature Creed, the worship and honouring of the Divine spirits and preserve the orders of the Cardinal, bishops and priests in the sacred ministry.

## **Chapter 2 – Government of the Church and Ruling Principles**

### **1. Levels of Governance**

- 1.1 The Church is operated under four levels of governance; the Administrative Trust, and the positions of Cardinal, Bishop and Priest.

### **2. Administrative Trust**

- 2.1 An administrative trust will be established under Trust Deed and known as “The Church of Our Saviour Charitable Trust”. The trustee of the trust will be appointed and operate within the rules of the trust deed.
- 2.2 The Administrative Trust will have the controlling administrative duties of the Church. The trustee will have perpetual succession, may sue and be sued in and by their name, and may acquire and hold any real or personal property or any estate or interest therein on behalf of the Church.
- 2.3 The trustee of the administrative trust may automatically assume the position of Cardinal, or appoint an authorised representative to fulfil the role as Cardinal within the Church structure and perform all duties as authorised under Chapter 2 Clause 3 of this canon.
- 2.4 The Trust through its deed of establishment is also responsible for the administration of the Church charitable and humanitarian projects. It is responsible for the collection and distribution of monies to support all charitable projects.

### **3. Role of the Cardinal**

- 3.1 The Cardinal is responsible for the advancement of the Church's religious beliefs, and the establishment and ongoing succession of religious services and places of religious worship.
- 3.2 In the performance of such duties the Cardinal may delegate authority by the appointment and ordination of a suitable person(s) as defined in Chapter 2 Clause 7 to the position of either Bishop or Priest to perform authorised religious duties and services on behalf of the Church.
- 3.3 In the event of permanent incapacity of both the Trustee and Cardinal, a replacement may be designated by majority vote to the role of Cardinal by existing Bishops and ordained Priests.

### **4. Role of the Bishop**

- 4.1 A Bishop is a suitable person(s) appointed by the Cardinal from the selection of existing ordained priests.
- 4.2 The Bishop will be assigned the responsibility of performing and administering Church religious duties and services across multiple Church parishes as designated by the Cardinal.
- 4.3 A Bishop, under the authority of the Cardinal, may appoint and ordain a suitable person(s) to the role of Priest within the individual parishes under the Bishop's control.

### **5. Role of the Priest**

- 5.1 A Priest is a suitable person(s) appointed and ordained to the Church by the Cardinal or a Bishop under the authority of the Cardinal.
- 5.2 The Priest will be assigned the responsibility of performing and administering Church religious duties and services in a specific Church parish.

### **6. The Parish**

- 6.1 A Parish is defined as an ecclesiastical district having its own church and clergy.
- 6.2 To assist with the administration and advancement of Church religious beliefs and services, each church under the faith of the Church of Our Saviour Australia may be divided into and administered on an individual parish basis.
- 6.3 A Parish within the Church will ever remain under the guidance and administration of the Cardinal and the Administration Trust. However it is general practice for an individual Priest to be appointed to each parish with the delegated authority of providing Church religious duties and services.

### **7. Ordainment**

- 7.1 To perform any religious duties and services on behalf of the Church a person must be ordained as a member of the clergy and hold at least the minimum position of Priest.
- 7.2 A person can only be ordained by the Cardinal or a Bishop under the authorisation of the Cardinal.
- 7.3 To be eligible for ordination an individual must be considered a suitable person by the Cardinal and meet the following conditions:

- a) Be at least the age of twenty one (21) years
  - b) Either
    - (i) Hold a certificate of ordination from another acceptable church, or
    - (ii) Have a minimum of two (2) years experience in a church environment, or
    - (iii) Have a recognised theological qualification from an accredited educational institution.
  - c) Have clearance under a criminal history check from either the relevant State or Federal Police authority.
  - d) Hold a certificate of clearance to work with children under the relevant State laws.
- 7.4 For an ordination to be officially recognised in the Church a person will be required to swear the following oath:
- "I <full name> pledge this oath in the presence of God, the Divine Spirit of Creation. I solemnly swear my faith to the Divine spirits, the Church of Our Saviour Australia, to follow and abide by the Creed known as the Balance of Nature and to ever obey and conduct myself within the constitution and canons of the Church, so help me God."*
- 7.5 Upon completion of the ordination process the person will be issued official certification stating the fact of ordainment signed and sealed by the Cardinal.
- 7.6 A clergyman's ordination may be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that they remain a suitable person to hold a position within the clergy of the Church.
- 7.7 A clergyman's ordination may also be immediately suspended for a defined period or revoked by the Cardinal in the instances of, but not limited to, unsatisfactory performance of duties and services within the Church, conduct that breaches the Canon of Foundation/Constitution of the Church, or other conduct that is immoral or illegal.

### **Chapter 3 – Alterations to this Canon of Foundation (Constitution)**

1. This Constitution titled Canon of Foundation shall not be altered except in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.
2. A bill for a canon to alter the provisions of this Constitution must be first put forward to the Cardinal for consideration as to whether it would be a suitable canon for a religious environment.
3. If the Cardinal deems the bill appropriate to a religious environment the bill will then be put forward to all members of the clergy for voting to accept the alteration.
4. A bill shall be accepted and a canon duly made if passed by a positive vote equal to or greater than three quarters of the number of total clergy members.