**BOARD FOR FINKE RIVER MISSION**

**Terms of Reference**

**1. NAME**

Board for Finke River Mission, referred to as “the Board”.

**2. RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH**

The Board is accountable to the Church through the General Church Board and shall fulfil its responsibilities in keeping with the Constitution and the policies of the Church.

**3. PURPOSE**

The objects of the Board shall be to organise, supervise, and extend the work of preaching the Gospel of Christ to the Aborigines in central Australia, and to promote their general welfare.

**4. AUTHORITY**

The Board has the authority to carry out its purpose and responsibilities which shall be exercised consistent with the Constitution and By-laws of the Church.

**5. MEMBERSHIP**

5.1 The Board shall consist of seven [7] members:

5.1.1 two [2] pastors; and

5.1.2 five [5] lay members of the congregations of the Church.

5.2 The pastors and lay members shall be appointed by the General Church Board on recommendations from the Standing Committee on Nominations.

5.3 The Chairperson shall be appointed by the General Church Board.

5.4 The Board membership shall consist of people with a passion for mission and ministry and have the relevant skills, qualifications and experience in one or more of the following areas:

5.4.1 an understanding of the Church and its teaching;

5.4.2 an understanding of bilingual and cross-cultural issues;

5.4.3 experience in strategic planning;

5.4.4 ability to challenge and be practical; and

5.4.5 listening and decision-making skills.

5.5 The membership of the Board shall aim to include a mix of background and perspectives which, together with the relevant skills, qualifications and experience, will enable it to fulfil its role effectively.

5.6 A wide range of other persons involved in or interested in the organisation, its program and clients may be invited as consultants to bring their knowledge and experience to the meeting to assist in the deliberations of the Board.

**6. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS AND REPORTING**

6.1 Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at least once a year.

6.2 Meetings shall be convened by the Chairperson.

6.3 It is at the discretion of the Board to meet face-to-face, by electronic means, or by other means of communication.

6.4 Email correspondence may be used for the distribution of minutes, advisory information or approval of documentation.

6.5 The minutes of the meetings of the Board shall be submitted to the General Church Board.

6.6 An annual report of the activities of the Board and any subsidiary bodies shall be submitted to the General Church Board.

**7. RESPONSIBILITIES**

7.1 The Board shall

7.1.1 administer the affairs of Aboriginal mission in central Australia in accordance with the policies of the Church;

7.1.2 call and appoint pastors in consultation with the Bishop of the Church;

7.1.3 appoint church workers and other staff members as required, in consultation with any relevant board of the Church;

7.1.4 engage casual or contract labour;

7.1.3 ensure the provision of spiritual support to the pastors under the spiritual oversight of the Bishop of the South Australia and Northern Territory District;

7.1.4 arrange for regular field visits;

7.1.5 supervise and administer property entrusted to its care;

7.1.6 encourage pastors and congregations within the geographical area of Central Australia to take an interest in the spiritual and general welfare of Aboriginals living in their area;

7.1.7 maintain liaison with other boards engaged in Aboriginal mission in matters of common concern;

7.1.8 negotiate with the Government in matters of Aboriginal welfare in consultation with the Bishop of the District and of the Church according to the policies of the Church;

7.1.7 negotiate directly with and work cooperatively with Australian Lutheran College in carrying out the educational ministry program, theological translations, literacy and theological training of prospective pastors and evangelists; and

7.1.8 promote the work of the Mission in, and seek the support of, the Districts as appropriate.

7.2 The duties of the Board are in addition to responsibilities prescribed in Section 8.7 of the By-laws of the Church.

**8. REVIEW**

8.1 The Terms of Reference for the Board shall be reviewed during each Synodical term.

8.2 Any changes to the Terms of Reference shall be approved by the General Church Board, upon review by the Standing Committee on Constitutions.