

## **Governance – How we make decisions**

The principal function of Hope Church, encapsulated in our legal documentation, is “to advance the Christian faith in accordance with our statement of beliefs” while adhering to the legal requirements of the Charity Commission.

We are conscious therefore that we need to have a governance structure that honours the requirements of **Romans 13: 7\*** and consequently the requirements of the seven principles of the Charity Governance Code – including understanding our **Organisational purpose; Strategic Leadership; Acting with Integrity; Risk Control; Effective Trustee Decision** making; **Diversity** of membership and **Openness and accountability**.

We currently therefore have six volunteer Trustees comprising of two Elders and four ‘independent’ members of the Church. The Trustees have been drawn from a variety of backgrounds including accountancy, management; property management and spiritual leadership and therefore have an appropriate balance of skills, experience and knowledge to manage a complex charity that covers spiritual matters as well as financial, building, employment and health & safety issues.

The role of the Trustees is to operate as a cohesive group making decisions in line with our charitable objectives. Within the Trustees group and within the Church, the Elders lead on all spiritual matters while the remaining Trustees are focused on ensuring our activities operate within the requirements of the law and the requirements of the Charity Commission.

The Trustees are therefore clear about the charity’s aims and ensure decisions are delivered effectively in accordance with the values of the organisation as encapsulated in the Trustees Code of Conduct.

The Trustees are aware of the importance of the public’s confidence and trust in charities and therefore lead the organisation in a transparent and accountable way. Hope Church is open in its work, and provides a clear description of strategic decisions and how the finances are used to support the work of the Church at our regular family meetings. Feedback from members is encouraged at such meetings and is crucial to formulating prayerfully our future direction.

The Trustees on a regular basis discuss the Church’s strategic direction; the administration of the organisation, including having appropriate policies and procedures in place; review our financial stability, including the monthly circulation of our management accounts; review our property obligations and the health and safety requirements of the organisation.

In summary Hope Church Trustees make decisions as a collective group to reach sound biblical and charitable decisions keeping at all times our focus on Jesus as the “the author and perfecter of our faith”.

**\*Romans 13:7** “Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honour to whom honour is due.... Do what is good and you will have praise from the authorities”.