

LIVING HOPE

About us

Church Handbook

Affiliated to **fiec** 
the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches

Welcomę!

We are delighted you have taken the time to join us at Living Hope.

We hope this Handbook will give you a little flavour as to who we are and what we are about.

On behalf of the Leadership and church family we sincerely thank you for your interest.

LIVING HOPE CHURCH

Just a little about our history

Birthed in mission.

The church was formed during the 1900s and was initially a Gospel Mission-outreach to the local fishing and dock workers. It was not part of any denomination then, and still is an independent church. The original site was not too far from where we are currently located.

We have been here on Linnaeus Street within Great Thornton Estate since the 1980s. The original building comprised of the creche and what we call the “minor hall”. In the 1990’s the large hall was added.

In early 2000s the church purchased the adjacent building what we now call the Ignite Centre. It used to be a pub called, “*The Kingfisher*”. The final major internal refurbishment to the Ignite Centre was finished just a couple of years ago. We hope this facility will be used greatly for the church and as an outreach into our local area. The opportunities are enormous!

Local and international

We are privileged to welcome brothers and sisters in Christ from varying countries around the world. We are a church that is both local and international. As you can imagine this brings enormous blessings and privileges. It also brings challenges and opportunities for understanding and mutual respect of our varying cultural and church backgrounds. Our priority is to be led by the Bible and to seek helpful ways in which the Bible can guide our diverse personal histories. Our *Statements of Faith and Practices* are governed by the authority of Scripture.

Part of the FIEC

We are affiliated to a collection of churches in the UK (In 2022 approx. 600+) called the *Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches* (commonly known as the F.I.E.C - www.fiec.org.uk). The FIEC this is **NOT** a denomination. The churches amongst the FIEC will have different views on the sacraments of baptism, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and style of service etc as well as particular “End-Time” theologies. We do not dismiss these as unimportant but rather as secondary to the major *doctrines of grace* contained in the Scriptures. We have learnt over the years that in secondary matters “*one-size- does-not-fit- all*”.

More than friends – we are FAMILY!

We do love meeting new people and appreciating one another as friends. Yet, we are more than friends, as people born-again by the Holy Spirit we are members of the family of God and we belong to our Lord Jesus and each other.

As family members of Jesus, we are called to “*count the cost*”, to make those sacrifices for Him and His family- the Church. This will include the sharing of our time, our talents, our tithes, and our treasures. Whilst it is important to receive from the church, our Lord has also taught us “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*”.

Our church family is led by a team of Elders, one of whom holds the office of Pastor. Throughout the year we have times in which we come together to be updated and to discuss important matters affecting church family. Our Elders’ listen, learn, and lead the church as “under shepherds” who are appointed by our Lord Jesus in looking after the family. We express our relationship to Jesus and each other in what we call membership. After a short time of you regularly attending our services one of our Elders will share with you what’s involved in becoming a member of our local church family here at Living Hope. It’s very important that you read the rest of this document.

Still on a mission!

From the time of our “*founding-fathers*” in the 1900s we are still seeking to obey Christ’s command in proclaiming the Gospel to our neighbourhood in the 21st Century and beyond. Our mission remains to ‘*catch fish and feed sheep*.’

STYLE AND SUBSTANCE

Style

Here at Living Hope our style is unique to us. It reflects who we are as a people at this point in our journey of faith. As we change our style might change.

We are a mix of people from different church traditions, cultures, and countries.

Our styles of expression in worship and prayer often reflect this. Some folks express themselves in raising hands, clapping, and dancing, even playing a tambourine.

Some folks prefer to pray standing or walking around or kneeling. At times we will pray vocally together at the same time.

We recognise that greeting gestures and how addressing one another can vary as well.

You may have noticed that a common form of greeting in our church is that of a short embrace. (hug) This is common to both men and women, and always should be done so with mutual consent and in a dignified respectful manner. Some folk prefer to greet by the shaking of hands.

We do not have a unified code of addressing varying ages or persons in our church family. For example "Pastor" can be equally referred to as " Pastor", "Pastor Jon" as well as simply "Jon". Likewise, the same principle applies to our other Elders. We also recognise similar principle for our women folk in the church. For example, Pastor's wife Rachel would prefer to be addressed as " Rachel" but understand some folk may prefer to call with their own titles. Often, our regular children refer to adults as either " aunty or uncle", as a term of endearment and respect.

Dress code: We only insist that folk wear clothing that is modest and that will not excessively draw attention from the opposite sex. The term " smart casual" is expected. Folk are welcome to attend in their normal traditional dress. Head covering is optional for women in all aspects of our services.

Because we are a mix of peoples from all over the world, we recognise that one particular style will simply not accommodate everyone.

We are not saying that our style is any better than any other church. It's just this is our style at this point in our journey of faith.

We appreciate and understand that our style may not be what you've been used to or feel comfortable with. We are mix of people that are learning to live together with our differences. It's not easy sometimes.

This is why we need to develop and grow the fruits of the Spirit radiating *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*.

SUBSTANCE

As a church we submit in love and obedience to the sufficiency and ultimate authority of the Bible. In all matters of faith and of life the Bible is our supreme guide. We acknowledge the importance of culture and society and of our place within them. Whilst we value and honour those appointed to govern us in society, we believe the best way to do this is by adhering to the Law of God above the laws of culture and society. To this end we have affiliated ourselves to a network of likeminded Christian churches called the FIEC: The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches. We are therefore an independent evangelical church. We seek to uphold the major doctrines of the Bible that help define what a New Testament church should be. In our present climate in the UK, where many mainstream denominations have sadly departed from the primacy of Scripture, we find it necessary and helpful to identify ourselves as a church that still upholds and seeks to live by what God still says to His people and His world. Therefore, style should never be above substance but rather style should be reviewed, refreshed, and reformed by the ageless Word of God.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We acknowledge that membership differs from tradition to tradition. Here at Living Hope Church we find that a formal membership helps in the decision making of the church and fosters a deeper sense of family belonging. It helps us as church family to know that you're not only with us but for us too. Membership at Living Hope is a formal declaration that you're ready and willing to serve the family of Jesus.

Whilst we appreciate your attendance at our services we also value and expect your attention in meeting the varying needs of your brethren within this local church that the Lord has placed you in *for such a time as this!*

Whether you're with us for six months or sixty years membership is a **must** for us all to further grow and develop together.

WHAT'S EXPECTED?

In practical terms serving the Body of Christ implies a commitment of you sharing your *time, tithes/ treasures and talents*.

Time

As a member you will prioritise the times to attend the regular church family gatherings. You will devote your time to meeting the needs of your church family members and in seeking to make new disciples for Jesus.

Tithes & Treasures

As a member you will want to regularly share in the financial burdens of Living Hope. You will desire in honouring the Lord by committing to giving regularly in accordance to how the Lord has prospered you. The Old Testament principle of Tithes **and** free-will gifts is a good starting point in considering financial giving. We have a variety of ways for you to give. As a Tax payer we can claim from the UK and additional 25% of your offering. Please ask us about Gift-Aid.

Talents

As a member you will seek to share and serve the church family in small or big ways, in humility and with joy. This will bless both you and the church family and in reaching out to others. Let us know if you have any particular areas of interest in serving. But don't worry...if you're willing then we will find areas of service for you.

WHAT'S NEXT ?

An informal interview with Pastor or an Elder to explain and seek your agreement in principle to our main Doctrinal basis of faith AND that you understand our Statements of Belief regarding sexuality, the role of women and our position on the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We expect that you have been baptised (either by Covenantal infant baptism or believer's baptism) or seeking baptism.

We expect that you are in good standing with your previous church.

*Membership for Young People under 18yrs.

Membership is open to Young People over 13yrs old subject to agreement of Eldership.

Certain church meetings may be age-limited due to the nature of content discussed.

Lapsed membership/transferral Non-attendance for THREE months or more without reasonable grounds will render membership as lapsed.

CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERSHIP PRINCIPLES: LIVING HOPE CHURCH

The following are agreed upon as folk are welcomed into our membership.

Our Father in heaven

Remember, we are all equal members in the family of God. God is your Father, Christ is your Elder brother and we are all born by the same Holy Spirit. We all are dependants upon our heavenly Father. As a member you declare your love to your heavenly Father and your love to His children here at Living Hope, for whom He gave His own Son that we might become the children of God by the Holy Spirit.

By this will all men know that you are My disciples if you love one another as I have loved you.

Hallowed be your name.

Your next priority is in observing the public worship of God with your church family. Recognising your spiritual union with Christ as your Head and union with His Body-the Church.

It is therefore essential for your personal growth as well as the benefit of your church family that you take reasonable measures in attending the public meetings of the church. These include regular attendance of Sunday worship which includes Communion as well as supporting regular opportunities for prayer and fellowship.

Your kingdom come ,your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Your next priority is in humbling yourself in honouring God's instructions/rule for your life as revealed in His Word, the Bible and by His providential leading. It also means humbling yourself in love before your fellow church family members as well as to those whom Christ has appointed to oversee your soul. This also includes submitting to those appointed by God to rule over you in your civic lives in accordance to Scriptural principles.

Pray for those in authority over you

Give us today our daily bread

Your next priority is to seek to grow in understanding of the Bible. This includes personal reading of the Bible as well as receiving and supporting ministry from those whom the Lord has appointed to preach and teach.

Your next priority is the spiritual and practical care of the family of God. This includes the free-will offering of your "bread" i.e. *time, talents, tithes, and treasures (money)* given in supporting the needs of the church family of Living Hope. As part of your worship, you are called upon to consecrate a portion of your finances to the Lord's work here in Living Hope. This will be undertaken in strictest confidence and in accordance with what is reasonably affordable for you.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

Your next priority is maintaining unity and peace amongst the family of God in humility. Recognising that Christ will one day glorify all His people in heaven.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Your next priority is to safeguard your own soul from sin as well as safeguarding others. You are your brother's keeper.

Your final priority is to simply use this "family " prayer guide of our Lord Jesus in praying for His family, the church.

Men ought always to pray. AMEN

FIEC STATEMENTS OF FAITH & PRACTICE (PART I) *modified*

DOCTRINAL BASIS

1. God

There is one God, who exists eternally in three distinct but equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is unchangeable in his holiness, justice, wisdom and love. He is the almighty Creator; Saviour and Judge who sustains and governs all things according to his sovereign will for his own glory.

2. The Bible

God has revealed himself in the Bible, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word was inspired by God through human authors, so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine. The Bible alone speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

3. The Human Race

All men and women, being created in the image of God, have inherent and equal dignity and worth. Their greatest purpose is to obey, worship and love God. As a result of the fall of our first parents, every aspect of human nature has been corrupted and all men and women are without spiritual life, guilty sinners and hostile to God. Every person is therefore under the just condemnation of God and needs to be born again, forgiven and reconciled to God in order to know and please him.

4. The Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father. He taught with authority and all his words are true. On the cross he died in the place of sinners, bearing God's punishment for their sin, redeeming them by his blood. He rose from the dead and in his resurrection body ascended into heaven where he is exalted as Lord of all. He intercedes for his people in the presence of the Father.

5. Salvation

Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved. It has been accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ and is offered to all in the gospel. God in his love forgives sinners whom he calls, granting them repentance and faith. All who believe in Christ are justified by faith alone, adopted into the family of God and receive eternal life.

6. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven to glorify Christ and to apply his work of salvation. He convicts sinners, imparts spiritual life and gives a true understanding of the Scriptures. He indwells all believers, brings assurance of salvation and produces increasing likeness to Christ. He builds up the Church and empowers its members for worship, service and mission.

7. The Church

The universal Church is the body of which Christ is the head and to which all who are saved belong. It is made visible in local churches, which are congregations of believers who are committed to each other for the worship of God, the preaching of the Word, the administering of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; for pastoral care and discipline, and for evangelism. The unity of the body of Christ is expressed within and between churches by mutual love, care and encouragement. True fellowship between churches exists only where they are faithful to the gospel.

8. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Baptism and the Lord's Supper have been given to the churches by Christ as visible signs of God's Covenant. We acknowledge that the church has differed on opinion with regards to infant baptism. We welcome into our church family those who uphold Covenantal infant baptism, as well as those who adhere to "Believer's baptism". The mode of baptism (full immersion/partial/sprinkling/pouring) is secondary. Entitlement to participate in Communion is for those who actively and intelligently profess faith in Christ and are mature in understanding of church life and discipline. We reasonably expect that communicants have either been baptised or are seeking to do so. Both baptism and communion are to be observed in the context of the local church and only administered by those officers duly appointed to do so.

9. The Future

The Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory. He will raise the dead and judge the world in righteousness. The wicked will be sent to eternal punishment and the righteous will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God. God will make all things new and will be glorified forever.

Role of women in ministry

Introduction

When the FIEC came into being in 1922, the issue of women in ministry would not have been particularly contentious. The consensus within independent evangelical churches was that the role of pastor and elder was open only to suitably qualified men. Whilst mainline denominations and other Christian groupings have shifted from this position, it is our conviction that the traditional view is in line with Scripture. At the same time, we also want to affirm that women have a very significant place in the ministry of our churches – not only, as has always been the case, in such areas as care and hospitality, but also in terms of teaching.

Gender

God created us male and female, and calls us to live according to our gender identity which is inseparable from our biological sex determined at conception. Our gender may not be changed or reassigned.

Joint heirs in salvation

Before examining the biblical data which address the issue of women in ministry it is essential that we reaffirm the equality men and women have in creation and redemption. Both men and women are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Both men and women receive the Holy Spirit and are heirs with Christ. We are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26-29). Women as well as men belong to the body of Christ and their service and gifts are essential for the proper functioning of the body (1 Corinthians 12:7). It is within this context that discussion about the role of women in the church takes place.

Complementary in ministry

At the creation God stated that it was not good for man to be alone (Genesis 2:18). Men and women are to work together in partnership both in the family and the church. There are, however, distinctions in the roles. The biblical texts which speak directly of the roles of men and women in Christian ministry have attracted much attention over the last few years. It is our conviction that, although some of the details may be debated, the essential thrust of these passages is clear:

1 Timothy 2 and 3

Timothy was charged with bringing order to the dysfunctional Ephesian church (3:14-15). There had been problems within the leadership of the church (e.g. 5:19-20), and a key aspect of Timothy's role was to make sure the church in Ephesus had suitably qualified elders (3:1-7). The qualifications assume that the elders will be men (3:2). This should not surprise us given that he makes it clear in the immediately preceding context that men, and not women, were to do the authoritative teaching (2:11-15).

1 Corinthians 11 and 14

At first glance, there appears to be a contradiction between 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, which assumes that women will pray and prophesy, and 1 Corinthians 14:33-35 which commands that women be silent in the church gathering. However one seeks to resolve this tension, it is clear that restrictions of some kind are being placed upon women. In 1 Corinthians 11, whilst Paul reminds us of the interdependence of men and women, he also makes it clear that issues of authority are at stake: man is the head of woman. The section in 1 Corinthians 14 also indicates that the women do not have the same freedom to speak in the gathering as the gifted men.

Creation and Trinity

Paul roots the prohibition of 1 Timothy 2 in creation (vv. 13-14) and that of 1 Corinthians 11 both in creation (vv. 8-9) and the nature of the Godhead (v. 3). These commands are therefore driven neither by culture, nor by a particular crisis in the church; rather, they are deeply rooted in who we are as creatures and the relationships within the Trinity.

Role of the women in ministry

Marriage

Paul's teaching on marriage also has some bearing on this discussion. There has been debate as to whether the term "head" implies authority, but the command for the wife to submit implies and suggests that it does. Husbands and fathers have responsibility for the welfare of their families and they should exercise authority in a loving way for the spiritual and physical welfare of their wives and children.

Role of women in the Old Testament

What we see in the New Testament is, as we would expect, a reflection of patterns laid down in the Old Testament. Leadership and teaching were reserved for men; priests, prophets and kings were men. There were exceptions with regard to prophecy, but these are few and far between. However, as in the New Covenant so under the old, women are co-workers with the men. In the book of Proverbs, we note that both the mother and the father are to be involved in the teaching and training of the children, and the virtuous woman of the closing chapter has a wide remit in terms of service.

Role of women in the New Testament

Women, like men, receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit and are involved in the work of the gospel. Women are witnesses to the resurrected Christ (e.g. Matthew 28) and are to pass on this good news. Many of the gospel workers mentioned by Paul in Romans 16 are women. Women are included in the command for us all to teach one another in the body of Christ (Colossians 3:16).

Implications for church life

Reflecting upon the biblical data, we can see that the primary leaders and teachers of the church are to be suitably qualified men, which does not include those presenting as male by virtue of gender reassignment.

Teaching, though, is not to be restricted to pastor/teacher/elders. All Christians are to be involved in teaching and encouraging one another. This includes women who are to teach other women (Titus 2:4) and who may well be involved in teaching in other forums. How exactly this works out in practice may well vary from church to church.

Implications for FIEC and Living Hope Church

To ignore the prohibitions of Scripture is not something we can endorse, nor can we be silent on the issue. Healthy oversight is essential for the welfare of the churches, and we believe the word of God makes it clear that this must be done by suitably gifted and qualified men.

This will mean that churches belonging to the FIEC **should not have a woman pastor-teacher or women elders.**

This also has implications for those wishing to join the Pastors' Network. Those applying to do so would need to accept the position of the FIEC on this issue.

Same sex marriage

1. Sexual intimacy is a gift from God and is to be enjoyed exclusively within the context of marriage
2. Marriage is, by definition, heterosexual.

These convictions are derived from the clear teaching of Scripture: in both the Old and the New Testament, marriage is painted in a positive light, and homosexual activity, along with all other sexual intimacy outside of (heterosexual) marriage, is declared by God to be sinful. Nowhere in the Bible is there an expectation that marriage can exist between two or more people of the same sex.

Old Testament Background

In the beginning God created Adam and Eve – one man united to one woman (Genesis 2v18-25). It is to be noted that sexual intimacy was part of the pre-Fall relationship between the man and the woman and is a gift to humankind. Reading through the rest of the Old Testament, it is apparent that the model set forth in Genesis 2 is the God-given pattern for marriage (e.g. Genesis 24, Song of Songs, Proverbs 31v10-12). Wherever sexual activity occurs outside of marriage it is presented in a negative light, and the Mosaic Law expressly forbids adultery (Exodus 20v14) and fornication (Exodus 22v16), as well as homosexual sex (Leviticus 18v22, Leviticus 20v13).

New Testament Confirmation

It has been pointed out that not all the commands of the Mosaic Law are carried over into the New Covenant; for example, the food laws are rescinded (Mark 7v19), and the New Testament commands loving church discipline, as opposed to the death penalty, for those who wilfully and persistently break God's laws. The New Testament, however, upholds the teaching of Genesis on marriage; Jesus when asked about divorce refers to Genesis 1-2 (Matthew 19v5-6), showing that he understands marriage to be a one-flesh relationship between a man and a woman. Further, the presupposition in Paul's teaching is that marriage entails a husband-wife relationship (Ephesians 5v22-33). Again, all the references to homosexual sex are negative and indicate that it is sinful (Romans 1v18-32, 1 Corinthians 6v9-11, 1 Timothy 1v8-10).

Reaffirmation of our Convictions in the Current Climate

Despite pressures from society we will continue to uphold the traditional Biblical view that:

1. Sexual activity is a gift to be enjoyed only within (heterosexual) marriage and that, outside of this setting, it is sinful;
2. Marriage involves a man and woman, bound together in legal-covenant relationship – a relationship that cannot be redefined.
3. We will make it clear that there is in Christ the free forgiveness and grace that to all repentant sinners – including those for whom sexual sin has formed a major part of their backgrounds.

Implications for Practice

In line with the above reaffirmations,

1. we will seek to uphold traditional Biblical sexual ethics in both our teaching and our practices.
2. None of our leaders would in good conscience be able to perform, bless or host same-sex marriage or wedding ceremonies;
3. Recognising that many Christians struggle with sexual temptation (whether same-sex attraction or heterosexual), we will prayerfully foster, within our churches, gracious support of one another in such struggles.

GIFTS -GIFTEDNESS- FRUITFULNESS

We recognise that each and every one of us have unique gifts and talents that God has blessed us with since the day we were born. Some of those gifts are more visible than others. Some gifts we have can be used in our church family. Whatever our personal gifts are, they are to be valued and shared within the church family with love and wisdom.

Please share with us your own personal area of giftedness. Do ask us for areas of service that you could help us all in. It may be that the Lord has gifted you with your personal and particular talents to help and bless His people here at living Hope.

We always need help! From serving drinks to being a friendly welcomer and discovering the skill in loading a dishwasher to sharing Jesus in Kids Club or getting alongside a stranger in our community café... and more... so much more!

We have a place for you! You are welcome here!

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

We are a church that teaches the gifts of the Holy Spirit are essential for the wellbeing of the church. We understand that we are not to resist, quench or grieve the Holy Spirit. We believe that it is the Holy Spirit who sovereignly gives these gifts to the church-family at various times and in various ways. We know from the New Testament that some churches had difficulties in this area of church life. (Corinth)

To help the church maintain decency and order in their services God has appointed Pastors and Elders to “oversee” the gifts of the Holy Spirit. If you believe that you may be led by the Spirit in a particular gift (whether a gift of speaking or service) then talk with our Pastor or one of the Elders beforehand.

We respectfully request that those who are blessed with the gift of tongues to exercise their gift in their private places of prayer. To some folk the sound of “tongues” may be more of a hindrance than a help. We know from Scripture that we can edify each other so much more by praying in our intelligible language. This should be our priority when we meet together, edifying others by our common language and exercising self-control. We do have other meetings in which there are some opportunities for folk to pray together in unison in their own native language as well as their *heavenly language*. These meetings still operate under the principle of decency and orderliness.

We acknowledge that in a meeting the Holy Spirit may lead one person to speak in tongues but will also give the gift of interpretation to another. As mentioned earlier, if you believe that you may be led by the Spirit in a particular gift then talk with our Pastor or one of the Elders beforehand.

In all our areas of gifting that God by His Spirit blesses us with, we seek to be fruitful in the sharing of them. Some of us may never experience any of the commonly known charismatic gifts of the Spirit in our lives but may possess gifts such as encouragement, faith, and discernment. However, all Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and are called to grow in the fruits of the Spirit and to share *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and self-control*. Jesus our ultimate Head and Overseer taught us *‘By this will all men know that you are my disciples, that you love one another’*. May we as a local church-family grow in the fruits of the Spirit and thereby come to know His gifts in our midst as well so that Christ would glorified in all and by all.

Caring

Here at Living Hope each one of us has duty of care for one another and for everyone that comes to our services.

We know and understand that people have had different journeys in their lives. Some of those journeys have included difficult and dark days that have been devastating and destructive both to themselves and others.

For lots of reasons some folk who visit and join us may have been victims or even been perpetrators of different forms of abuse and criminality.

As a church we have a both a moral and legal duty to safeguard one another, especially those who may be regarded as “vulnerable persons” of all ages.

We have our own Safeguarding Officer and seek to comply with current good safeguarding guidelines.

All our staff/church officers and relevant volunteers have been vetted (DBS) and have the appropriate permissions for areas of service.

DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF CARE

The Bible never condones immorality or abuse of any form amongst a church leadership. The records of failed leaders in the Bible and church history are there to alarm us and call us all to vigilance.

Such sad accounts should always humble us, encourage us to be in much prayer for those in leadership and to look out for one another.

Here in Living Hope Church we uphold a model of leadership called Eldership. The Elders are recognised by the church as possessing certain gifts and moral integrity and undertake certain roles within the church. The Pastor is an Elder as well and ordinarily will have the main task of directing and instructing the Church in accordance to Biblical teachings.

Each Elder is accountable to one another as Elders and to the Church membership.

Whilst the Eldership comprises solely of men they value and actively seek the counsel and wisdom of women in the church. Also, in all our meetings the contribution of our women is sought after and valued. The wearing of “head-covering” for women is voluntary and optional.

Throughout the year the church hosts meetings in which members and regular attenders can freely discuss issues facing the church. Some of these meetings will be restricted to “Members-Only”.

In certain church matters the Eldership may restrict meetings or voting to those strictly over 18yrs.

In accordance to UK Charity Law we organise an Annual General Meeting in which the church’s financial records are made public. Our Annual Reports are made available and can be accessed by anyone from the Charity Commission’s Web site (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>).

In accordance with UK Charity Law the church has appointed Trustees who have regulatory duties in ensuring we comply to UK Charity Law.

All financial giving is kept in strictest confidence. No persons are identified in our church accounts. Under UK Charity Law only the Treasurer has knowledge of those persons who donate to the church via Gift Aid. The Pastor and other Elders do not have any personal knowledge of an individual’s financial giving.

Have concerns with Leadership?

We recognise that there may be unfortunate occasions that directly approaching any of the Leaders may not be possible or even advisable. Should you have serious concerns then please talk to someone outside of the church. This could simply be someone from the FIEC (01858 43 45 40) or depending on the nature of the case officials from Social Services, Police services or NSPCC. (Tel 0808 800 5000)

Before you go...

JUST SOME PRACTICAL DETAILS

OFFICIAL ADDRESS : Living Hope Church, Linnaeus St,Hull. HU3 2QA

T: +44 (0)1482 329521

E: office.livinghopehull@gmail.com

WEBSITE : www.livinghopehull.co.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA : Find us on Youtube,FaceBook and Instagram.

Whatsapp :Ask to join our Church group used for latest updates and news.

FINANACIAL SUPPORT :

We accept payments in all forms: Cash (UK currency only) cheque, Electronic Transfer(BACS)

We politely ask that no cash is posted through our post box.

We have an “ easy-to-use “ Card reader at the back of the church.

GIFT AID : This is an arrangement that allows charities such as ours to reclaim tax on a donation made by a UK taxpayer. This means every donation will be worth 25% more, at no extra cost to the giver.

Forms are at the rear of the church or upon request.

Church Bank

LLOYDS

SORT CODE 30-94-44

ACCOUNT 02537059

We are registered as a UK charity No 519594



LIVING HOPE

TRUTH

Affiliated to **fiec** 
the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches