

## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WESTMINSTER CONSTITUTION**

### **1 BASIS**

Churches Together in Westminster unites in pilgrimage those Churches in or close to the London Borough of Westminster which, acknowledging God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit, commit themselves:

- to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is His body; and
- to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world

to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### **2 OBJECT**

The object of Churches Together in Westminster shall be the advancement of the Christian religion and other purposes which are charitable according to the Law of England and Wales according to the doctrine and practices of the constituent Churches.

### **3 AIMS**

The aims of Churches Together in Westminster shall be:

- a. to enable the Member Churches, as pilgrims together, to explore the Christian faith together, to develop mutual relationships, to find common ground, and to work together to build God's Kingdom;
- b. to enable and encourage the Member Churches to worship and pray together;
- c. to enable the Member Churches to live and share the Gospel, to evangelise together, and to take further steps towards fuller unity;
- d. to enable the Member Churches to respond to the needs of society and to witness to the Gospel together; and
- e. to enable the Member Churches to reflect together on the nature and purpose of the Church in the light of its mission – each Church sharing with others the treasures of its tradition.

### **4 MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of Churches Together in Westminster shall be open to:

- a. any local church in the area which is affiliated to a Church or association of Churches which is a full member of Churches Together in England;
- b. any other local church in the area which affirms the Basis and commits itself to promote the aims of Churches Together in Westminster;

- c. any local church which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition and therefore cannot formally subscribe to the statement of faith in the Basis, provided that it satisfies at least half of those Member Churches which subscribe to the Basis, that it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures, that it is committed to the aims and purposes of Churches Together in Westminster, and that it will work in the spirit of the Basis.

## **5 EXECUTIVE**

- a. Members of the Executive of Churches Together in Westminster shall be members of churches which are Member Churches of Churches Together in Westminster.
- b. The Executive shall have no more than twelve members.
- c. Members shall join the Executive by collective invitation of the existing members.
- d. Each AGM shall approve those members of the Executive who have joined the Executive since the previous AGM, and any such new members of the Executive who do not secure the approval of the AGM shall immediately resign from the Executive.
- e. Except as provided for in clause 5.f below, members of the Executive shall serve for a term of no more than five years and shall then retire from the Executive and may not rejoin the Executive for at least one year.
- f. The Executive shall appoint a Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall be chosen from among the members of the Executive and shall usually be appointed to serve for a three-year term. A member of the Executive appointed to one of these positions may serve in that position for three years even if this results in that member remaining on the Executive for more than five years in contravention of clause 5.e.
- g. The Executive shall appoint a new Chair or a new Secretary or a new Treasurer if and when the position becomes vacant.
- h. Appointment of a Chair or a Secretary or a Treasurer shall be made ideally by the unanimous consent, but otherwise by a simple majority vote, of the members of the Executive present and voting at the meeting at which the appointment is made.

## **6 AGM**

- a. The AGM of Churches Together in Westminster shall continue to be organised in accordance with established practice: that is, it shall be a meeting open to any members of Member Churches, at which a report of events and a financial report shall be presented, followed by speakers and discussion.
- b. Members of churches which are not Member Churches of Churches Together in Westminster may attend the AGM, but only members of Member Churches may vote to approve the membership of the Executive, or on any other matter which is to be decided by a vote at the AGM.
- c. Each Member Church which is represented by one or more individuals at the AGM shall have one vote.
- d. As close in time to the AGM as is reasonably practicable, and ideally on the same evening, there shall be a meeting of Designated Representatives of Member Churches. Every Member Church which has paid its membership donation for the

financial year in which the AGM falls in accordance with clause 7.b shall be entitled to send two Designated Representatives to this meeting, at which the Executive will present such reports, offer such suggestions, and facilitate such discussions as will in the judgement of the Executive be useful for furthering the aims of Churches Together in Westminster.

- e. The Executive may at its discretion refer any matter to either the AGM or the meeting of Designated Representatives for decision (by vote or otherwise), except that new members of the Executive must be approved by the AGM, in accordance with clause 5.d, and any change to this constitution must be approved by the meeting of Designated Representatives, in accordance with clause 8.

## **7 FINANCE**

- a. The financial year of Churches Together in Westminster shall run from April 1st to March 31st.
- b. Each Member Church shall pay a membership donation each (financial) year. The Executive shall decide the amount of the membership donation each year and shall communicate it to the Member Churches.

## **8 CHANGES TO THIS CONSTITUION**

This constitution may be replaced or amended on the basis of support from two thirds of the Designated Representatives present and voting at a meeting of Designated Representatives.