

**THE CONSTITUTION
of
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CUMBRIA**

1. Name:

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CUMBRIA

2. Basis:

Churches Together in Cumbria (CTiC) unites in pilgrimage those Churches in Cumbria 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, primarily through local Churches Together groups:

- a. to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and
- b. 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.

3. Aims and Objectives:

The objective of Churches Together in Cumbria shall be the advancement of the Christian religion, the relief of poverty and the advancement of education and any other purposes which are charitable according to the law of England and Wales. In particular, Churches Together in Cumbria shall seek to further these objects by

- a. encouraging and enabling Churches in the county to grow together in trust and mutual acceptance through shared worship, prayer, learning, service and evangelism with each church sharing with others the treasures of its tradition;
- b. encouraging and stimulating throughout the county a deeper commitment to Christian unity;
- c. promoting and co-ordinating ecumenical strategies at all levels
- d. acting as a sponsoring body for Local Ecumenical Partnerships, ensuring the provision of appropriate ongoing advice and support, equitable financial assessment and proper periodic review;
- e. encouraging full and early ecumenical consultation so that the churches may use resources (including buildings and the deployment of personnel) with sensitivity and in the interests of good stewardship;
- f. providing a meeting point for Christian leaders and representatives within the county;
- g. keeping the churches informed about ecumenical initiatives both inside and outside the county, liaising with the national ecumenical bodies;
- h. and in all these ways, providing a focused Christian reference point for local government and other secular bodies with whom Churches Together in Cumbria will seek to work in the interests of the well-being of the people of Cumbria.

4. Membership:

Churches Together in Cumbria shall be open to

- a. any church, association of churches or Christian body which has a presence in Cumbria and which at national level is in full membership of Churches Together in England (see appendix 1) and /or Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (see appendix 2)
- b. other churches which have a presence in Cumbria and which affirm the Basis and commit themselves to promote the aims and objects of Churches Together in Cumbria; their membership must be approved by 75% of the Executive Council (see appendix 3 for list of current CTiC members)

5. Church Leaders' Meeting:

- a. There shall be a meeting of Church leaders normally twice a year to provide a regular opportunity for leaders of the main Christian traditions in Cumbria to consult together about matters of common concern including the ecumenical implications of policies and appointments. (see appendix 4)
- b. In addition, the Church Leaders group will act as a reference group for the Executive Council of Churches Together in Cumbria.
- c. CTiC staff shall normally be in attendance and facilitate these meetings.

6. The Executive Council:

The Executive Council should include

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Treasurer
- d. A member of the Social Responsibility Forum (usually its convenor)
- e. Two Denominational Ecumenical Officers - elected by the Denominational Officers' meeting for a period of two years
- f. Two members of local Churches Together groups (elected at the AGM) for a period of two years
- g. The Chair of the Dementia Reference Group

In addition:

- i. The Church Leaders Group will ensure that at least one of its members is appointed to the Executive Council
- ii. CTiC staff shall normally be in attendance and facilitate these meetings.
- iii. The Executive Council may co-opt not more than 4 further members

7. Meetings of the Executive Council:

- a. The Executive Council shall normally meet four times a year
- b. The Executive Council shall convene a Forum/Celebration at least every two years to enable a wider constituency to share in its work.

- c. The accounts shall be presented annually to the Executive prior to being circulated formally to member bodies
- d. The quorum for meetings of the Executive Council shall be 50% of its membership.

8. Trustees

The Executive Council shall act as the Trustees of CTiC, and shall meet as and when required.

9. Forum

There shall normally be a Forum (Celebration) which shall meet not less than once in every two years. All members of Churches Together in Cumbria shall be entitled to be represented at the Forum. The Executive Council shall be responsible for convening and organising the Forum and especially for ensuring fair representation of members

10. Officers

a. President and Vice President

The Church Leaders shall appoint a President

The Denominational Officers shall appoint a Vice-President

- i. The President shall
chair meetings of the Executive Council;
represent the Executive Council in its wider role within the county;
be the person to whom any staff are directly responsible or delegate this role
- ii. The Vice-President will deputise for the President as and when required.

b. Treasurer

The Executive Council will appoint an Honorary Treasurer

Officers will normally serve for a term of three years. They are eligible for reappointment for one further consecutive term, and may then be reappointed after one year.

11. Committees:

The Executive Council shall have powers to appoint and disband committees and working groups as it deems necessary from time to time.

12. Finance:

- a. CTiC shall seek funds from the members in such proportions as may from time to time be agreed;

- b. accounting records shall be maintained in accordance with the Charities Act 2006 and any subsequent legislation in relation to charities as may be enacted by Parliament;
- c. the independently examined or audited accounts shall be presented annually to the Executive Council and be communicated to the members;
- d. The Trustees shall appoint an independent examiner or auditor;
- e. Churches Together in Cumbria shall operate a bank account into which all monies shall be paid. Cheques drawn on this account shall require the signatures of any two people authorised by the Executive Council

13. Review and Development:

It is intended that Churches Together in Cumbria should reflect the developing life of the Cumbria churches. Its work shall be reviewed, in consultation with Churches Together in England, normally every five years.

14. Amendments to the Constitution:

This Constitution may be amended by a simple majority of those present and voting at a properly constituted meeting of the Executive Council. Amendments to this Constitution shall be made only after four weeks of written formal notification has been given to the members and their representatives. No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which shall cause Churches Together in Cumbria to cease to be a charity in law.

15. Dissolution:

Churches Together in Cumbria may be dissolved by a resolution by not less than three-quarters of the member churches. The votes shall be cast at a Special Forum Meeting convened for the purpose, of which at least six months' notice shall have been given to all representatives. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the member churches but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Executive Council as the Executive Council may determine, and if and in so far as, effect cannot be given to this provision, then to some other charitable purpose.

Appendix 1: Member Churches of Churches Together in England (as at August 2017)

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of the British Isles + Ireland
Apostolic Pastoral Congress
Armenian Orthodox Church
Assemblies of God
Baptist Union of Great Britain
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
Church of England
Church of God of Prophecy
Church of Scotland (Presbytery of England)
Churches in Communities International
Congregational Federation
Coptic Orthodox Church
Council of African and Caribbean Churches UK
Council of Lutheran Churches
Council of Oriental Orthodox Christian Churches
Elim Pentecostal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church of England
Evangelische Synode Deutscher Sprache in Großbritannien
Exarchate of Orthodox Parishes of the Russian Tradition (Ecumenical Patriarchate)
Free Church of England
Ground Level
Ichthus Christian Fellowship
Independent Methodist Churches
Indian Orthodox Church
International Ministerial Council of Great Britain
Ixthus Church Council
Joint Council of Churches for All Nations
Mar Thoma Church in Europe
Methodist Church
Moravian Church
New Testament Assembly
New Testament Church of God
Oecumenical Patriarchate
Pioneer
Redeemed Christian Church of God
Religious Society of Friends
Ruach Network of Churches
Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate)
Salvation Army
Seventh-day Adventist Church (observer)
Transatlantic Pacific Alliance of Churches
Unification Council of Cherubim + Seraphim Churches (Europe Chapter)

United Kingdom World Evangelism Trust
United Reformed Church
Wesleyan Holiness Church

Appendix 2: Member Churches of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (as at August 2017)

Apostolic Pastoral Congress
Armenian Orthodox Church
Baptist Union of Great Britain
Cherubim and Seraphim Council of Churches
Church in Wales
Church of England
Church of God of Prophecy
Church of Ireland
Church of Scotland
Congregational Federation
Coptic Orthodox Church
Council of African and Caribbean Churches
Council of Oriental Orthodox Churches of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland
Evangelische Synode Deutscher Sprache in Grossbritannien
Exarchate of Orthodox Parishes of the Russian Tradition (Ecumenical Patriarchate)
Independent Methodist Churches
International Ministerial Council of Great Britain
Joint Council of Churches for All Nations
Lutheran Council of Great Britain
Mar Thoma Church
Methodist Church
Methodist Church in Ireland
Moravian Church
New Testament Assembly
New Testament Church of God
Oecumenical Patriarchate (Arch. of Thyateira and Great Britain)
Presbyterian Church of Wales
Religious Society of Friends
Religious Society of Friends in Ireland
Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales
Roman Catholic Church in Scotland
Romanian Orthodox Church
Salvation Army
Scottish Episcopal Church
Undeb Yr Annibynwyr Cymraeg
United Free Church of Scotland
United Reformed Church
Wesleyan Holiness Church

Appendix 3: Member Churches of Churches Together in Cumbria (as at August 2017)

Baptist Union of Great Britain
Church of England
Church of Scotland
Churches in Communities International
Methodist Church
Orthodox Church in Cumbria
Religious Society of Friends
Roman Catholic Church
Salvation Army
United Reformed Church

Appendix 4: Churches Together in Cumbria Church Leaders Group membership

- The Bishop of Carlisle (Church of England)
- The Bishop of Lancaster (Roman Catholic)
- The Chair of the Cumbria Methodist District
- The Representative appointed by the North Western Association of the Baptist Union of Great Britain
- The President of the Cumbria Area or Moderator of the North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church
- A Representative appointed by the North-West England & North Wales Division of The Salvation Army
- A Representative appointed by one of the Cumbrian Area Meetings of the Religious Society of Friends
- A representative of other such leaders of other member bodies of Churches Together in Cumbria as may be added by resolution of the Executive Council
- The President of Churches Together in Cumbria - ex officio