

Churches Together in Kettering and District CONSTITUTION

1. BASIS

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN KETTERING AND DISTRICT unites in pilgrimage those Churches and Fellowships 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 Kettering and District 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 Kettering and District shall be:

- (a) to enable the Member Churches, as pilgrims together, to explore the Christian faith together, to develop mutual relationships, to seek a common mind, 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.
- (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. AREA

Churches Together in Kettering and District aims to serve the town of Kettering and those of its surrounding towns and villages not otherwise represented by a body in association with Churches Together in Northamptonshire and Peterborough.

5. RELATIONSHIPS

Churches Together in Kettering and District is in association with Churches Together in Northamptonshire and Peterborough which is the intermediate level body of Churches Together in England.

6. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of Churches Together in Kettering and District shall be open to -

(a) any local church or fellowship in the area which is affiliated to a church or association of churches which is a full member of Churches Together in England and

(b) subject to (d) below, any other local church or fellowship in the area which affirms the Basis and commits itself to promote the aims of Churches Together in Kettering and District and

(c) subject to (d) below, any local church or fellowship 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 manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and it is committed to the aims and purposes of Churches Together in Kettering and District and that it will work in the spirit of the Basis.

(d) New applications for membership under 6(b) and 6(c) require the nomination of two existing members of Churches Together in Kettering and District and require the approval of 50% of existing members. Members must be given at least 28 days in which to respond to a nomination.

7. OFFICERS

The Officers of the Council shall be a Chair and Vice Chair, immediate Past Chair, an honorary Treasurer, a Secretary, a Minutes Secretary, and such other officers as the Annual Meeting shall decide.

8. COUNCIL

(a) The Council shall consist of the clergy and ministers and up to two others appointed from each Member Church and Fellowship.

(b) The Council may co-opt others; such co-options not exceeding 25% of the total number of representatives appointed by the Member Churches.

(c) The Council shall meet not less than three times annually. A meeting in May or June shall be the Annual Meeting at which the inspected accounts shall be presented, officers elected, annual reports submitted, a calendar of meetings agreed, policy and initiatives for the year decided and the level of the subscription set.

(d) Other meetings of the Council may be held as deemed desirable by the officers or at the request in writing to the Secretary of appointed representatives from not less than three member churches and fellowships specifying the business for inclusion on the agenda.

(e) At least two weeks' notice in writing (either electronically or as hard copy) of any meeting of the Council shall be given.

(f) The attendance by at least one representative of at least one third of the Member Churches and Fellowships shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Council.

9. EXECUTIVE

(a) The Council shall appoint an Executive at its Annual Meeting consisting of the officers,

and three additional clerical members

and three additional lay members,

and those persons responsible for certain areas of work as may be determined by the Council.

(b) The Council shall have regard to an appropriate representation of the various Christian traditions and denominations in membership in making its appointments.

(c) The Executive shall support the Council in achieving the Aims of Churches Together in Kettering and District.

(d) Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Executive may be filled at any meeting of the Council.

10. GROUPS

The Council shall be free to set up groups to undertake its work. Such groups shall be chaired by a member of the council, but their membership may include non-members of the council as well as members.

11. FINANCE

(a) Each Member Church and Fellowship shall pay such annual sum to Churches Together in Kettering and District as shall be agreed at the Annual Meeting, subject to the discretion of the Treasurer to accept a lesser sum from any Member Church or Fellowship for which the set amount is unaffordable.

(b) Cheques shall require the signature of any two of four officers nominated by the Council.

- (c) An honorary auditor/inspector shall be appointed at the Annual Meeting.
- (d) The subscriptions may only be used to fund
 - (i) the reasonable expenses incurred in the administration of Churches Together in Kettering and District including the payment of subscriptions, and
 - (ii) those events and projects which have been regularly undertaken in accordance with the Basis to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Holy Week and Christmas, and
 - (iii) other events and projects approved by the Council which are promoted by Churches Together in England or Churches Together in Northamptonshire and Peterborough and recommended to local groups, and
 - (iv) such other events or projects approved by the Council for which finance is available that are in accord with the Basis.

12. CONSTITUTION

The constitution and any subsequent amendment to it requires the approval in writing submitted to the Secretary of 75% of the Member Churches and Fellowships, acting through their normal decision-making bodies with access to the advice of the County Ecumenical Development Officer. Member Churches and Fellowships must be given at least 28 days' notice in writing of a proposed change.

13. REVIEW

It is intended that Churches Together in Kettering and District reflect the developing life of the Christian Churches as they continue their pilgrimage together. No later than June 2023 a Review Group shall be appointed by the member churches and fellowships in consultation with the County Ecumenical Development Officer to report on the progress of the pilgrimage and to make proposals for desirable changes to the constitution.

14. DISSOLUTION OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN KETTERING AND DISTRICT

- (a) A motion to dissolve Churches Together in Kettering and District must be circulated in writing (both electronically and as a hard copy) to members at least three months before it can be considered by a special meeting of Member Churches when the support of at least 75% of Member Churches is required for the motion to be successful. It will be the responsibility of Council members to discuss the proposal for dissolution with their nominating bodies.
- (b) Any residual funds shall be allocated to Christian charitable organisations designated by the Council.