

PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BURY ST. EDMUNDS AND DISTRICT

CONSTITUTION

(Revised 2015)

1. *DEFINITION*

Churches Together in Bury St. Edmunds and District is an association of local Christian Churches which affirm the basis and desire to promote the objects stated below.

2. *BASIS*

The basis is that of a fellowship of churches in pilgrimage together which, acknowledging God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Bible, 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 triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A Church which on principle has no creedal statements in its tradition and therefore cannot subscribe to the statement of faith in the Basis, may nevertheless apply for and be elected to full membership provided it satisfies those member churches which subscribe to the Basis that it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed in the Bible and is committed to the aims and purposes of the ecumenical body and that it will work in the spirit of the Basis.

3. *OBJECTS*

- a. To give expression to the churches' common faith and devotion.
- b. To enable churches to bear a more united witness in the community and to serve it more effectively.
- c. To draw churches locally and regionally into greater understanding and co-operation in their search for unity.
- d. To give support to new ecumenical initiatives.
- e. To provide a forum in which Christian agencies working within the district and supported by the churches may present reports, appeal for support and receive encouragement.

4. *MEETINGS*

There shall be an AGM at which the accounts and other reports shall be presented and the Officers elected. Other meetings, events and activities shall be arranged at the discretion of the committee.

No decisions can be taken that affect the life and witness of Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds and District without the approval of representatives from at least six different churches at a committee meeting.

5. *REPRESENTATIVES*

- a. Each church is encouraged to send representatives to the committee.
- b. Only a church leader and one approved lay representative, (or in the absence of a church leader, two lay representatives) from each church would be entitled to vote.
- c. Churches shall inform the secretary of the names of their representatives each year and of any change that may occur during the year.

6. *OFFICERS*

The honorary officers shall be chair, secretary, treasurer and any others deemed necessary. The chair will normally serve for a period of two years.

7. *COMMITTEE*

The committee shall ideally consist of the officers and church representatives, together with representatives of any affiliated groups.

8. *SUB COMMITTEES*

The committee may appoint sub committees for specific purposes. Such sub committees have the power to co-opt members subject to the approval of the committee and shall report proposed activities to the committee.

9. *FINANCE*

Each church shall contribute an annual subscription to cover expenses. The amount of such subscription shall be determined at the annual meeting.

10. *AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION*

The constitution may be amended at any meeting of the churches provided that the Secretary shall have received the proposed amendment(s) and shall have given ninety days notice in writing of the same to the churches' representatives for the consideration of each church. Voting members for each church are a church leader and one approved lay representative, or in the absence of a church leader, two lay representatives. A two-thirds majority of those present and voting shall be required to give effect to any proposed amendment.

11. *DISSOLUTION*

Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds and District may be dissolved by a resolution, passed by not less than three quarters of the member churches by their representatives present and voting at a Special General Meeting, convened for the purpose, of which at least six months notice shall have been given. Such a resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities. Such assets shall not be paid to or distributed among the member churches but shall be given to an institution having objects similar to the objects of Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds and District.

2015

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Churches Together in Bury St Edmunds and District have endorsed the following five statements:

- We acknowledge that our God is a God of love who desires that his people should live in unity through his Son Jesus Christ.
- We humbly acknowledge our failure as Christian Churches to live and work together in unity.
- We rededicate ourselves to the service of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who has called us and equipped us to be his people in this area.
- We pledge ourselves to seek to work more effectively for the Kingdom of God, humbly relying on the power of the Holy Spirit.
- We commit ourselves to pray for all God's people in this area and to work with them to make the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ known to all people.