

West Yorkshire Churches Together – Constitution

1. Basis

West Yorkshire Churches Together (WYCT) unites in pilgrimage those churches in its area 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 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 God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

2. Purpose

The purpose of WYCT is to provide a structured way of deepening relationships between different parts of the Christian family in our region in order to jointly witness to and act together in visible expressions of our unity in Christ and to cooperate in God's mission.

3. Area

WYCT aims to serve West Yorkshire and any surrounding areas covered by its Member Churches.

4. Membership

Membership of WYCT shall be open to:

- a. any church which is a full member of Churches Together in England, and
- b. any other church which affirms the Basis and commits itself to participate in the Purpose of WYCT.
- c. new applications for membership require nomination by two existing members of WYCT and the approval of 75% of existing members.

It is expected that church leaders and representatives will sign the WYCT Covenant.

5. The Forum

- a. The Forum will be a meeting of church leaders and representatives. It will be a means of deepening and strengthening the relationships between church leaders and representatives, and enabling the Member Churches to make decisions in common.

- b. The Forum is the executive body with overall responsibility for the operation of WYCT. The Forum will provide strategic leadership for WYCT.
- c. Each member church will nominate one or two representatives to be members of the Forum.
- d. A Convener and a Deputy Convenor (who would become the Convenor in the following year) shall be appointed by the Forum for a period of one year.
- e. The Forum may invite others to attend meetings of the Forum on specific occasions.
- f. The Forum shall normally be convened at least three times a year. One of those meetings shall normally be the Annual Meeting at which the independently examined accounts shall be presented and any new office holders elected.
- g. Meetings of the Forum shall be held as deemed desirable by the Convenor or at the written request of Forum members from three Member Churches.
- h. At least two weeks' notice in writing of any meeting of the Forum shall be given.
- i. The attendance by at least one Forum member of at least half of the Member Churches shall constitute a quorum.
- j. The Forum may delegate specific activities to smaller groups as required.
- k. The Forum may organise activities for Member Churches and any other interested churches, congregations or individuals.

6. Denominational Ecumenical Officers' Network

- a. Denominational Ecumenical Officers appointed by Member Churches will join together to form a network to provide mutual support and to facilitate joint working.
- b. The members of the Network will appoint a Convenor from within its members for an initial period of one year, and may be re-appointed if willing to serve for further periods.
- c. The convenor will report the work of the network to the Forum as appropriate.
- d. Denominational Ecumenical Officers will have specific responsibility for supporting work with LEPs and for pursuing activities identified by the Forum; and general responsibility for encouraging and supporting ecumenical working at a local level.
- e. The Network will explore effective ways of working and agree these between the members of the Network.
- f. It may be appropriate for the full Network to meet together occasionally, or for smaller groups of Network members to meet together for specific purposes.

7. Administrative Support

- a. Administrative and secretarial support will be provided for WYCT which may be in the post of an administrator.
- b. The Administrator shall initially be appointed for a period of three years and may be re-appointed if willing to serve for further periods.
- c. The duties and responsibilities of the Administrator will be determined by the Forum and agreed with the Administrator.

8. Finance

- a. Each member church may be required to pay an annual sum to WYCT as shall be agreed at the Annual Meeting. The sum may be related to both the size of the church and to its ability to pay.
- b. The financial year shall be from 1st January to 31st December.
- c. The funds of WYCT shall be paid into an account operated by the Forum in the name of WYCT at such bank as the Forum shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by at least two of the signatories approved by the Forum.
- d. An honorary independent examiner shall be appointed at the Annual Meeting.

9. Constitution

The constitution and any subsequent amendment to it requires 28 days' notice in writing to members of the Forum and the approval of 75% of the member churches, acting either through their representatives to the Forum or through their normal decision-making bodies.

10. Dissolution of the Churches Together Group

- a. A motion to dissolve the WYCT group must be circulated in writing (both electronically and in writing) to the members of the Forum at least three months before it can be considered by a special meeting of the Forum when the support of at least 75% of Member Churches is required for the motion to be successful. It will be the responsibility of Forum members to discuss the proposal with their nominating bodies.
- b. On dissolution, any residual WYCT funds should be allocated to Christian charitable organisations designated by the Forum.