

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND

An Incorporated Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee
(Company Registered No. 5354231, Charity Registered No. 1110782)

RULES

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 “**Member Churches**” means those Churches and Associations of Churches admitted to Membership in accordance with these Rules.
- 1.2 “**Intermediate Ecumenical Bodies**” means ‘Representative Inter-Church bodies for Regional, County, Metropolitan or similar areas’.
- 1.3 “**Bodies in Association**” means ‘associations, networks and movements which bring together Christians of different denominations for purposes congruent with the Basis and aims of the Charity which have a spread of membership and an appropriate form of national organisation’.
- 1.4 “**Forum**” means the meeting organised and constituted in accordance with Rule 6.
- 1.5 “**Enabling Group**” means the Members of the Charity meeting together in General Meeting.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 Membership of the Charity shall comprise:
 - 2.1.1 Churches and Association of Churches admitted in accordance with Rule 2.2 each of whom shall be entitled to one vote except for:
 - a. the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church each of which shall be entitled to three votes.
 - b. the Methodist Church which shall be entitled to two votes.
 - 2.1.2 Ten members elected by the Intermediate Ecumenical Bodies in regional groupings.
 - 2.1.3 Deleted.
 - 2.1.4 Two members elected by the Bodies in Association at their biennial meeting.
 - 2.1.5 The Moderator and Deputy Moderator of the Forum who shall be appointed by the Enabling Group.
 - 2.1.6 The Convenor and Deputy Convenor.
 - 2.1.7 The Honorary Treasurer of the Charity.
 - 2.1.8 The General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.
 - 2.1.9 The Trustees of the Charity for the time being.

- 2.2 An application for membership may be entertained from:
- 2.2.1 Any Church or Association of Churches which accepts the Basis.
 - 2.2.2 Any Church or Association of Churches which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition and therefore cannot formally subscribe to the statement of faith in the Basis provided it satisfies 75% in number of those full members which subscribe to the Basis 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 England and that it will work in the spirit of the Basis.
 - 2.2.3 If the Enabling Group decides to accept the recommendation of the Board to accept a new member, that decision must be ratified in writing by the Member Churches within four months of the date of the Enabling Group. 75% of the votes received in writing, including by e-mail, by that date would need to be in favour, provided not less than 51% of the membership have voted.

3. THE PRESIDENTS

- 3.1 Six Presidents of the Charity shall be invited to accept appointment, namely:
- 3.1.1 The Archbishop of Canterbury.
 - 3.1.2 The Archbishop of Westminster.
 - 3.1.3 The Moderator for the time being of the Free Churches Group or other person appointed by the Group.
 - 3.1.4 A representative of the Orthodox family of Churches, rotating between the Eastern Orthodox Churches and the Oriental Orthodox.
 - 3.1.5 A representative of the churches of the Pentecostal tradition.
 - 3.1.6 A representative from another Christian tradition in membership with Churches Together in England but not represented in 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4 and 3.1.5 above who shall be appointed by those churches after wide consultation.
 - 3.1.7 The Presidents shall at the invitation of the Trustees represent Churches Together in England (CTE) in person or on public occasions and advocate the work of CTE. They may also offer advice and counsel to the Trustees, the Enabling Group or the Forum on any aspect of the work of CTE, as they think fit.

4. THE OFFICERS

- 4.1 The Officers of the Charity shall be:
- 4.1.1 The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Trustees.
 - 4.1.2 The Honorary Treasurer.
 - 4.1.3 The General Secretary.

Such other executive Officers as appointed by Trustees.

- 4.2 The Chairman shall be appointed and act in accordance with Article 44.

- 4.3 The Honorary Treasurer shall be appointed by and from amongst the Trustees and shall hold office for four years and be eligible for re-election.
- 4.4 The General Secretary shall be appointed by the Trustees in accordance with Article 49.
- 4.5 For the purposes of this Rule, the provisions of Article 49 shall also apply to the appointments of other executive Officers

5. POSTHOLDERS OF THE FORUM AND OF THE ENABLING GROUP

- 5.1 The post holders of the Forum and of the Enabling Group shall be:
 - 5.1.1 The Moderator and Deputy Moderator of the Forum.
 - 5.1.2 The Honorary Treasurer.
 - 5.1.3 The General Secretary.
 - 5.1.4 Other Executive staff.
 - 5.1.5 The Convenor and Deputy Convenor of the Enabling Group but see 4.1.1 above.
 - 5.1.6 The Worship Co-ordinator if appointed.
- 5.2 The post holders shall be appointed in the following manner:
 - 5.2.1 The Moderator and Deputy Moderator of the Forum shall hold office from the end of one Forum to the end of the next. They shall preside at meetings of the Forum and prepare its agenda with the General Secretary after consultation with the Enabling Group.
 - 5.2.2 The Honorary Treasurer appointed in accordance with Rule 4.3.
 - 5.2.3 The General Secretary shall be appointed by the Trustees in accordance Rule 4.4.
 - 5.2.4 Other Executive staff appointed by the Trustees in accordance with Rule 4.5.
 - 5.2.5 The Convenor and Deputy Convenor of the Enabling Group who will be elected by the Enabling Group. The appointments shall be for three years and both shall be eligible for re-election for a further term.¹
 - 5.2.6 The Worship Co-ordinator, if appointed, shall be responsible for planning and arranging worship at the meetings of the Forum. The Worship Co-ordinator will be appointed by the Enabling Group for three years, and is eligible for re-appointment for a further term of three years.

¹ The Memorandum and Articles provide for separate positions of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Trustees and Convenor and Deputy Convenor of the Enabling Group. In practice these have always been the same people. In the best interest of Churches Together in England it is recommended that this practice continues. (*Note to the Enabling Group November 2018*)

6. THE FORUM

- 6.1 The Forum shall meet every three years or as determined by the Member Churches through the Enabling Group and will provide an opportunity for people representing churches at local, intermediate and national levels to meet. Its function shall be:
- 6.1.1 to engage in worship and discussion;
 - 6.1.2 to seek inspiration together for the ecumenical journey and to make such recommendations to the Member Churches as it sees fit;
 - 6.1.3 to support and encourage Intermediate Bodies in their role as the servants of their participating churches, especially in promoting local ecumenism;
 - 6.1.4 to share its reflections on ecumenical life in England with the Enabling Group, Agencies, Churches Co-ordinating Groups and in the fulfilment of their role of servicing the churches.
- 6.2 The Forum will comprise participants who will be appointed by:
- 6.2.1 Member Churches. These will comprise approximately one-half of the membership.
 - 6.2.2 Intermediate Bodies. These will comprise approximately one-third of the membership.
 - 6.2.3 Other bodies as listed in the Schedule of Representation (Schedule 1) together with co-opted and ex-officio members. These will comprise approximately one-sixth of the membership.
- 6.3 The number of participants and applications for representation on the Forum shall be determined from time to time by the Enabling Group.

7. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE FORUM

- 7.1 The Presidents
- 7.2 The Moderator and Deputy Moderator of the Forum
- 7.3 The Honorary Treasurer
- 7.4 The General Secretary
- 7.5 Other Executive staff appointed by the Trustees
- 7.6 The Convenor and Deputy Convenor of the Enabling Group
- 7.7 The Trustees of Churches Together in England

8. FINANCE

The work of Churches Together in England shall be maintained by annual contributions from the Member Churches, Intermediate Bodies and Bodies in Association as determined by mutual agreement.

9. CHURCHES' CO-ORDINATING GROUPS AND BODIES IN ASSOCIATION

Churches Together in England may carry out and develop its work through existing or new Churches' Co-ordinating Groups which will bring together representatives from Member Churches, Bodies in Association and others with experience in or concern for particular areas of work.. They shall be appointed or authorised by the Enabling Group and shall provide full reports of their activities to the Enabling Group. They will not be mandated to speak on behalf of Churches Together in England except with the permission of the General Secretary. They will not be permitted to enter into liabilities or commitments on behalf of Churches Together in England or otherwise to act in the name of the Trustees.

10. AGENCIES

Churches Together in England will maintain close links with Agencies and organisations which are independent of it and are responsible to all or some of the Member Churches.

11. COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Enabling Group may set up ad hoc task groups and working parties to which it may assign specific matters for consideration and report.

12. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENABLING GROUP AND TRUSTEES

A Memorandum of Understanding shall be agreed between the Trustees and the Enabling Group setting out their relationship.

Without restricting the legal process and obligations of the Trustees, the Trustees should refer all major issues affecting the Charity to the Enabling Group for consideration and, where appropriate, action.

The Trustees shall agree and review from time to time the job descriptions of staff, in full consultation with the Enabling Group.

Cognisant of recommendations and suggestions from the Enabling Group, the Trustees shall prepare the agenda for the Group for the Group to adopt or amend at the beginning of its meeting.

Nothing in these Rules shall limit or otherwise affect the Trustees legal powers and obligations.

13. PARTICIPANT OBSERVERS

The Enabling Group may invite to its meetings and to the Forum as participant observers (without voting powers) representatives of Churches and Associations which would qualify for membership under Rules 2.2.1 and 2.2.2.

14. RULES

Three months' notice of any change in these Rules should be given to the Member Churches to enable full consultation to take place.