



Pentecostal Leaders Forum
Protocol – Effective Pentecostal Voice in CTE
(November 2018)

Rationale

This protocol has been developed by the CTE Pentecostal Leaders' Forum as a guide for Pentecostals and Charismatic members to have an effective presence and voice within CTE.

Background

- i) In 1990 when Churches Together replaced its predecessor British Council of Churches, six of the twenty founding members (i.e. 30%) were Pentecostals/Charismatics.¹ Today twenty-two of the forty-eight members (i.e. 46%) are Pentecostals/Charismatics. As CTE has grown so too has its proportion of Pentecostal/Charismatic membership.
- ii) The basis of CTE is trinitarian, relational and missional: 'Churches Together in England unites in pilgrimage those Churches in England 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: 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.'²
- iii) CTE's strategic aims - agreed in 2014 - are relationships, action/mission and theology and the Pentecostal Forum exists to facilitate participation in this process by those CTE members that identify as Pentecostal/Charismatic.
- iv) At the Autumn 2018 Enabling Group, the CTE priorities arising from the Theos Report were reaffirmed as (a) developing missional collaboration, (b) deepening discipleship, (c) discerning and utilising our shared spiritual practices, (d) discovering ways of speaking more effectively together into the public square, (e) determining to seek our unity in Christ through rich diversity and (f) desiring with greater passion and longing to see the kingdom rule of Christ come in our uncertain times. The EG confirmed a new strapline for CTE as: **'One in Christ, engaged in God's mission, empowered by the Spirit'**
- v) A CTE member of staff serves this constituency and can be contacted at any time.

Opportunities

- i) Although there has been a Pentecostal/Charismatic presence in CTE from its inception, there remains the need to develop further viz a viz

¹ Founding Pentecostal members in 1990: Cherubim and Seraphim Council of Churches, Council of African and Afro-Caribbean Churches, International Ministerial Council of Great Britain, Joint Council for Anglo-Caribbean Churches, New Testament Assembly, Wesleyan Holiness Church

² https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/234695/Home/About/Basis_of_CTE/Basis_of_CTE.aspx

- relationships, voice and influence within the CTE family leading to a real feeling of equality in value of all members' contributions.
- ii) The eclectic nature of the CTE Pentecostal/Charismatic membership poses its own challenge of ecclesial coherence in addition to varying capabilities in terms of finance and organisational maturity and expertise.
 - iii) There are several pathways that Pentecostals/Charismatic CTE members can appropriate for more effective ecumenical engagement.

Presidency

- i) CTE has six presidents representing the breadth of English Christianity, including since 2012 a Pentecostal President which overlaps somewhat with the Free Churches Group presidency and with the 'Fourth Constituency' presidency.
- ii) The six presidents meet two to three times each year which provide opportunities for the Pentecostal President to share with fellow presidents matters of significance to the Pentecostal/Charismatic family.
- iii) Leaders can therefore communicate to the Pentecostal President concerns or celebrations thought useful for the wider ecumenical family to be appraised of.

Trustees

- i) CTE operates with a Board of Trustees/Directors who are elected by the AGM for three years (renewable). The AGM takes place during the autumn meeting of the Enabling Group. In addition to appropriate skills/experience, effort is made to draw suitable candidates from the spectrum of CTE's membership.
- ii) Pentecostal/Charismatic leaders can be proactive in, either responding to periodical requests from the search committee to find appropriate personnel for consideration, or by informing the Chair of Trustees about individuals you feel have Board level skills/experience within your church or agency body.

CTE Forum

- i) CTE convenes a Forum every three years that brings together over three hundred representatives of its Members, Intermediate Bodies, Co-ordinating Groups and Bodies in Association from across the country. It is an opportunity to be encouraged by the diversity and depth of Christian witness in England, and to be enriched by forging new relationships and connections through Bible study, discussion, workshops and listening to speakers from all parts of the Christian Church.³
- ii) Each CTE member church may send two delegates. Pentecostal/Charismatic members are encouraged to ensure that places on offer are taken up by suitable representatives who can participate and feedback appropriately to you.

³ https://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/279029/Home/About/The_Forum/What_is_the/What_is_the.aspx

Enabling Group

- i) The Enabling Group meets twice per year and is the key members meeting in CTE, with the task of nurturing ecumenism in England, considering matters of governance and common concern. This is where CTE's Directors report to Member Churches' representatives and receive their comments and directions. Every CTE Member church has at least one place at this meeting.
- ii) Pentecostal/Charismatic CTE Members are strongly encouraged to nominate a trusted person of substance and status within your organisation, who has the capacity for high level information, interpretation and discourse, able to attend meetings to represent your church or agency's understanding of the issues, have time to read papers, among other considerations.
- iii) Each CTE Member can put forward matters for tabling at Enabling Group meetings, preferably after discussing such with colleagues, e.g. the CTE Pentecostal President, PMR staff person, CTE General Secretary, Chair of Trustees.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)

- i) CTBI is the four-nations ecumenical instrument facilitating transnational and international ecumenism.
- ii) Pentecostal/Charismatic CTE members with branches in all or some of the other nations in the UK may wish to consider applying for membership in CTBI as well as in the national Churches Together instruments in other UK countries.

Churches Together Ecumenical Structures in England

- i) English ecumenism operates on several levels, including national, intermediate (county) and local.
- ii) Some churches appoint a National Ecumenical Officer to lead their ecumenical engagement including with CTE staff and county/city and Intermediate Ecumenical Officers. Where possible Pentecostal/Charismatic CTE members might consider appointing a National Ecumenical Officer and advising CTE staff and Intermediate Ecumenical Officers of such.
- iii) Most counties or metropolitan areas have 'Intermediate' ecumenical bodies, some with an appointed officer. Pentecostal/Charismatic CTE members may find it beneficial to encourage regional church leaders to connect with ecumenical leaders and initiatives in their area.
- iv) Additionally, there are city-wide and local Churches Together groups. Pentecostal/Charismatic CTE members may find it beneficial to encourage local church leaders to connect with ecumenical leaders and initiatives in their area.

Bi/multilateral opportunities

- i) Pentecostal/Charismatic CTE members are at liberty to broker bi and/or multilateral relationships with other CTE members.

CTE-news

- i) Each month CTe-News is published. Each CTE member is encouraged to be a subscriber, subscription is free. If you are not already a subscriber, you can join here: www.cte.org/news
- ii) CTE staff member Jim Currin who edits CTe-News is always looking for contributors and contributions for CTe-News: reflections, news, etc., of ecumenical interest. Jim can be contacted at: website@cte.org.uk

Pentecostal Forum

- i) The CTE Pentecostal Forum convenes twice per year and each Pentecostal/Charismatic CTE member is encouraged to send a representative to contribute and represent your organisation. Continuity is helpful.
- ii) News from your organisation and agenda items for consideration can be sent to the PMR staff member via office@cte.org.uk

Finance

- i) Someone said, 'money is a sacrament of commitment'. All CTE members make a self-determined contribution to the overall operational cost of the organisation. Pentecostal/Charismatic CTE members contribute to these costs on an annual basis.

Conclusion

It is hoped that the foregoing provides a useful background to how Pentecostal/Charismatic CTE members can make their voices heard and presence felt with legitimacy on the Churches Together ecumenical journey. With all of this said, and with members encouraged to speak and act together as a first option, individual CTE members retain their right to speak and act for and by themselves - being always conscious of the wider church and context.

CTE Pentecostal Leaders' Forum
November 2018