



# Churches Together in England: one in Christ Jesus, engaged in God's mission, empowered by the Spirit

## Strategic Plan 2026 v1.0

### Aim 1: The unity we live - serving God's work in the world

*Jesus prayed that the church might be one as he and the Father are one (John 17:21). This unity is his gift to his followers through the whole of his work on earth, but supremely on the cross. By living the gift of unity always better we can serve more effectively in God's mission.*

#### Objective 1: Support CTE's role of assisting the churches speaking into the world

**1.1 Ensure that a variety of Christian voices are reflected on key issues emerging from the churches (Sarah Ball and Mike Royal)**

*CTE is engaging with ecumenical bodies and conversations on inter-faith and climate justice (in association with CTBI) so that England's Christian voice is represented in global spaces, and CTE's work is positioned in a wider context.*

**1.2 Develop CTE's reputation as the go-to place for ecumenical information in England (Sarah Ball)**

*Using CTE's varied channels to inspire, encourage and inform the churches as they journey together towards Christian unity. CTE Forum 2025 provides a significant opportunity to deliver this.*

#### Objective 2: Develop the work of diversity for CTE and its members

*CTE's Membership includes Member Churches, Intermediate Bodies, Charities and Networks in Association.*

**2.1 Develop a new generation of Young Ecumenists (Shermara Hoyte, Ben Cross and Sarah Ball)**

*CTE is working to see ecumenism in England become more intergenerational, with a focus on succession.*

**2.2 Deepen and broaden the engagement of Member Churches with the Living with Diversity Well ecumenical journey (Doral Hayes and Mike Royal)**

*Human sexuality is a contentious subject ecumenically. CTE is creating a safe space to discuss this theme and continue to walk together in Christian unity.*

**2.3 Engage Member Churches with emerging Racial Justice themes (Shermara Hoyte)**

*Together with our ecumenical partners, CTE is equipping churches to speak and engage confidently to tackle racial disharmony and division in England.*

#### Objective 3: Provide an environment for members to share their understanding, experience and practice of mission

**3.1 Facilitate and enable churches to work effectively together in mission through co-ordinating groups, conferences and other projects (Ben Aldous)**

*CTE has a unique role to gather a wide variety of traditions and confessions to focus on mission.*

**3.2 Develop partnerships with other mission-focused groups (Ben Aldous)**

*CTE will focus on emerging missional themes, such as intercultural and migrant churches, and church planting initiatives.*

### Aim 2: The unity we build - helping Christians grow as one

*The churches may already be sharing in the unity that will become fully present at the end of time, yet they are still divided. CTE seeks to be a space where the dream of unity can flourish, in mutual understanding, receiving each other's gifts, and finding ways to express this in all dimensions of Christian life together.*

#### Objective 4: Find ways to support intermediate and local ecumenism

*CTE has a key role in seeing the renewal of ecumenism at an intermediate and local level, and sustaining existing good practice.*

**4.1 Continue to support quality training, the sharing of good practice and resources to support intermediate and local ecumenism (Doral Hayes)**

**4.2 Deepen the relationship between CTE, its Member Churches and intermediate and local ecumenism (Doral Hayes)**

**4.3 Increase the diversity of Member Churches engaged in intermediate ecumenism (Doral Hayes and Shermara Hoyte)**

**4.4 Develop intermediate ecumenism in areas where it is not currently functioning (Doral Hayes)**

#### Objective 5: Create more opportunities for churches to do theology together

*CTE will support and develop ecumenical opportunities for theological conversations in academia and beyond.*

**5.1 Prioritise CTE's engagement in ecumenical bi-lateral conversations and other opportunities for ecumenical dialogue (Mike Royal with Ben Aldous and Shermara Hoyte)**

**5.2 Encourage ecumenical theological publications and conversations (Ben Aldous and Doral Hayes)**

**5.3 Maximise the opportunity of Member Churches celebrating 1700 Years of the Council of Nicaea (Sarah Ball and Mike Royal)**

#### Objective 6: Find ways to extend CTE's role in relationship building

**6.1 Support CTE Presidency Groups to deepen ecumenical relationships (Mike Royal and Shermara Hoyte)**

*CTE provides a secretariat function for the Pentecostal and Charismatic Leaders' Forum and the Fourth Presidency Group. Other Presidency Groups are self-sufficient.*

**6.2 Collaborate with other ecumenical instruments and networks (Mike Royal)**

*CTE works alongside ecumenical instruments covering Wales, Scotland and the island of Ireland to promote Christian unity and share good practice.*

**6.3 Maximise opportunities to build ecumenical relationships with CTE Members and other movements (Mike Royal, Ben Aldous, Doral Hayes and Shermara Hoyte)**

*CTE builds relationships with its Members Churches, Intermediate Bodies and Charities and Networks in Association to engage with CTE's programmes and with each other.*