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# CHURCHES TOGETHER LYMM AND DISTRICT CONSTITUTION

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May 2022



# CHURCHES TOGETHER LYMM AND DISTRICT

## Constitution

### 1. BASIS

Churches Together Lymm and District (hereinafter referred to as CTLD) unites in pilgrimage those Churches in Lymm, Thelwall and High Legh 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 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 One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### 2. OBJECT

The object of CTLD shall be the advancement of the Christian Faith and other charitable purposes, according to the Law of England and Wales and the doctrine and practices of the constituent Churches.

### 3. AIMS

The aims of CTLD shall be:

- a. to enable the Member Churches, as pilgrims together, to explore the Christian faith, develop mutual relationships, find common ground, and work together to build God's Kingdom.
- b. to enable and encourage the Member Churches to worship, pray and socialise together.
- c. to enable the Member Churches to live, witness, and share the Gospel, to evangelise together and to take further steps towards fuller unity.
- d. to enable the Member Churches to reflect together on the nature and purpose of the Church in the light of its mission – each church sharing with others the treasures of its tradition and theology and respecting the varying authority vested in the leadership and hierarchy.
- e. to strive to ensure a Christlike, united response to any need of body, mind and spirit arising in our community and beyond.

#### **4. AREA**

CTLD aims to serve the neighbourhoods of Lymm, Thelwall and High Legh.

#### **5. RELATIONSHIPS**

CTLD is in association with Churches Together in Cheshire.

#### **6. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of CTLD shall be open to:

- a. Any local church in the area which is affiliated to a Church or association of Churches which is a full member of Churches Together in England.
- b. Any other local church in the area which affirms the BASIS and commits itself to promote the aims of CTLD.
- c. Any local church which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition and therefore cannot formally subscribe to the statement of faith in the BASIS, provided that it satisfies 50% in number of those Member Churches 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 CTLD and that it will work in the spirit of the BASIS.

New applications for membership under 6.a, 6.b, and 6.c require the nomination of two existing members of CTLD and require the approval of 50% of existing members. Members must be given at least 28 days in which to respond to a nomination.

#### **7. OFFICE-HOLDERS**

The officer-holders of CTLD shall be a Chair and a Vice Chair who, if possible, should belong to different denominations. An Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer are to be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Council. The positions of Chair and Vice Chair shall be filled by representatives of each Member Church on a rotation basis (allowing each member church the opportunity to have a representative in these roles for two years). Should no other officer be willing to stand, existing officers may be re-elected for no more than one further period not exceeding two years.

## **8. COUNCIL**

- a. The Council shall consist of the ordained clergy and ministers and up to two other delegates, preferably lay people, appointed from each Member Church.
- b. The Council may co-opt others when required on such an occasion as additional advice or expertise is required.
- c. Each church may invite up to two guests to attend any Council meeting. Guests shall be recorded in the minutes and shall not be permitted to vote on Council issues.
- d. The Council shall normally meet not less than three times annually. One of these meetings shall normally be the Annual General Meeting at which the accounts shall be presented and any new office-holders elected.
- e. Other meetings of the Council shall be held as deemed desirable by the office-holders or at the written request of Council members from three Member Churches.
- f. At least two weeks' notice in writing of any meeting of the Council shall be given. Electronic mail is deemed suitable to satisfy this requirement.
- g. The attendance by at least one Council member of at least half of the Member Churches shall constitute a quorum.

## **9. WORKING GROUPS**

From time to time Working Groups may be set up by the Council to carry out a particular piece of work. Their remit will be defined by the Council, and they will report progress back to the Council, making recommendations for the decision of Council members. The Council shall also define the start and finish time frame to be observed by the Working Group.

## **10. FINANCE**

- a. Each Member Church shall pay such annual sum to CTLD as shall be agreed at the Annual General Meeting of the Council. All Churches shall contribute equally.
- b. The financial year shall be from January to December.
- c. Cheques shall require the signature of any two nominated signatories.

## **11. CONSTITUTION**

The constitution and any subsequent amendment to it requires the approval of 66% of the Member Churches, acting either through their members of the Council or through their normal decision-making bodies. Member Churches must be given at least 28 days' notice in writing of a proposed change.

## **12. DISSOLUTION OF THE CHURCHES TOGETHER GROUP**

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

As agreed this Eleventh Day of May 2022