

Revised Constitution for 'Churches Together in Leyland'
Approved at the 2015 AGM

1. BASIS

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEYLAND (CTL) unites in pilgrimage those Churches in Leyland 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.

And thus our Mission Statement is:-

Churches Together in Leyland (CTL)
is a local response to Jesus'
prayer for all his disciples-
'That all may be one.'

2. AIMS

The aims of Churches Together in Leyland shall be -

(a) to enable the churches, as pilgrims together, to explore the Christian faith together, to develop mutual relationships, to seek a common mind, and to make decisions together;

(b) to encourage churches to worship, pray and 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;

(c) to enable the churches to live and share the Gospel, to evangelise together and to take further steps towards fuller unity;

(d) to enable the churches to respond to the needs of our multi cultural society.

(e) to publicise the work of Churches Together in Leyland and the groups which it supports.

3. AREA

Churches Together in Leyland aims to serve the local community.

4. RELATIONSHIPS

Churches Together in Leyland is in association with Churches Together in Lancashire.

5. MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP OF Churches Together in Leyland shall be open to:-

- (a) any local church in the area which is affiliated to a church or association of churches which is a member of Churches Together in England and
- (b) any other local church group in the area which affirms the Basis and commits itself to promote the aims of Churches Together in Leyland
- (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 to 75% 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 Churches Together in Leyland and that it will work in the spirit of the Basis.

6. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The officers of Churches Together in Leyland shall be a Chair and a Vice Chair an Honorary Treasurer and an Honorary Secretary plus a Minute Secretary to be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Forum. Executive Officers shall serve for an initial period of 3 years and may be re-elected, if willing to serve, for one further period not exceeding 3 years. (Function of Executive Officers point 8).

7. FORUM

- (a) The Forum shall consist of the ministers, the Executive Officers and up to 3 others appointed from each Member Church/Group.
- (b) The Forum may co-opt others; such co-options not exceeding 25% of the total number of representatives appointed by the Member Churches.

- (c) The Forum shall meet not less than 4 times annually.
The September meeting shall be the Annual Meeting at which
- the audited/inspected accounts shall be presented,
 - officers elected as necessary,
 - annual reports submitted
 - policy and initiatives for the year decided.

Other meetings of the Forum shall be held as deemed desirable by the officers or at the written request of at least three representatives of a Member Church.

At least two weeks notice in writing of any meeting of the Forum shall be given. The attendance by at least one representative of at least half of the Member Churches shall constitute a quorum.

Any proposals from members or items for the agenda, shall be forwarded to the Chair, no less than 4 weeks prior to the meeting of the Forum, to be included in the Agenda.

8. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FUNCTION

- (a) The Executive Officers functions shall be to enable the Member Churches to make decisions in common and to serve as a reference point for the Forum.
- (b) Sub-Committees shall be constituted as the Executive may direct for particular projects or events. These sub-committees will report to the Forum.

To undertake these functions the Executive Officers shall meet prior to each Forum meeting to:

- agree agenda items for the forthcoming Forum
- discuss issues arising and consider proposals to put to the Forum
- plan ahead for CTL events e.g. Walk of Witness, Week of Prayer for Christian Aid, (Women's) World Day of Prayer.

For issues arising that require immediate action Executive meetings will be called as necessary. The Chair will not act alone. Decisions will be taken by as many of the Executive as available / necessary (no less than 2 Executive Officers), e.g. contributing to local Press articles.

9. SAFEGUARDING

CTL works within the Safeguarding guidelines of host organisations / Churches for issues relating to children and vulnerable adults. By this we mean when attending any of our Churches for any service or event, CTL follows that Church's safeguarding procedures for any issues in respect of children and vulnerable adults. For events outside the Church best practice procedures for safeguarding vulnerable adults and children will be followed e.g. the involvement of volunteers under supervision and where children attend they will be accompanied by parents or a designated responsible adult. A designated person for each event will be identified who is responsible for safeguarding and is fully conversant with their Church's procedures.

10. FINANCE

Each Member Church / Group shall pay such annual sum to Churches Together in Leyland as shall be agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Forum. The financial year shall be from 1st September to 31st August. Cheques shall require the signature of any two of the four officers. An annual audit shall be completed by an honorary auditor/inspector appointed by the Executive.

11. CONSTITUTION

The constitution and any subsequent amendment to it require the approval of the Annual General Meeting.

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for proposing any amendment required to this constitution and shall publish such amendment to all the representatives to the Annual General Meeting, two months before the AGM.

A copy of the CTL Constitution will be provided to each member Church, will be available on the CTL website and to members on request.

12. REVIEW

It is intended that Churches Together reflect the developing life of the Christian Churches as they continue their pilgrimage together. From time to time (suggested every 5 years), a review shall be undertaken by the Executive Officers to report on the progress of the pilgrimage and to consider the direction for forthcoming years making proposals for desirable changes.

This Constitution was reviewed and agreed at the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd September 2015.

Signed by the following Officers:

Chair: Margaret Dixon

Vice Chair: Teresa Smith

Secretary:

Treasurer: Robert Haydock