

# ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND

## Interpretation

1. In these articles:-

**“the Basis of Membership”** means uniting 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 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;

**“the Charity”** means the company intended to be regulated by these articles;

**“the Act”** means the Companies Act 1985 including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force;

**“the Articles”** means these Articles of Association of the Charity;

**“clear days”** in relation to the period of a notice means the period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;

**“executed”** includes any mode of execution;

**“Members”** means the members of the Company appointed pursuant to Article 2(1)

**“Member Churches”** means those members listed in Schedule A together with such other churches or associates of churches who are admitted as members of the Company in accordance with Article 2 and any rules made thereunder.

**“the Memorandum”** means the memorandum of association of the Charity;

**“Office”** means the registered office of the Charity;

**“the Seal”** means the common seal of the Charity if it has one;

**“Secretary”** means the secretary of the Charity or any other person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary of the Charity, including a joint, assistant or deputy secretary;

**“the Trustees”** means the directors of the Charity (and “trustee” has a corresponding meaning);

**“the United Kingdom”** means Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and

words importing the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender.

Subject as aforesaid, words or expressions contained in these Articles shall, unless the context requires otherwise, bear the same meaning as in the Act.

## **2. Members**

- 1) The subscribers to the Memorandum and such other persons or organisations as are admitted to membership in accordance with the rules made under Article 60 shall be members of the Charity.
- 2) Unless the Trustees or the Charity in general meeting shall make other provision under Article 60, the Trustees may in their absolute discretion permit any member of the Charity to retire, provided that after such retirement the number of members is not less than two.
- 3) Members meeting in General Meeting shall act as an enabling group (The Enabling Group) which shall be a reference point for:
  - A. Member Churches to make decisions together which are proper to them (where necessary referring matters back to the Member Churches); and
  - B. responding to initiatives from the Forum, Member Churches and Intermediate Bodies and enabling those initiatives to be carried out by the Churches in consultation with one another, through Churches Co-ordinating Groups or other agencies.

## **General meetings**

3. The Charity shall hold an annual general meeting each year in addition to any other meetings in that year, and shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling it; and not more than fifteen months shall elapse between the date of one annual general meeting of the Charity and that of the next: Provided that so long as the Charity holds its first annual general meeting within eighteen months of its incorporation, it need not hold it in the year of its incorporation or in the following year. The annual general meeting shall be held at such times and places as the Trustees shall appoint. All general meetings other than annual general meetings shall be called extraordinary general meetings.
4. The Trustees may call general meetings and, on the requisition of members pursuant to the provisions of the Act, shall forthwith proceed to convene an extraordinary general meeting for a date not later than eight weeks after receipt

of the requisition. If there are not within the United Kingdom sufficient Trustees to call a general meeting, any Trustees or any member of the Charity may call a general meeting.

### **Notice of general meetings**

5. An annual general meeting and an extraordinary general meeting called for the passing of a special resolution appointing a person as a Trustee shall be called by at least twenty-one clear days' notice. All other extraordinary general meetings shall be called by at least fourteen clear days' notice but a general meeting may be called by shorter notice if it is so agreed:
  - 1) in the case of an annual general meeting, by all the members entitled to attend and vote; and
  - 2) in the case of any other meeting by a majority in number of members having a right to attend and vote, being a majority together holding not less than 95 per cent of the total voting rights at the meeting of all the members.

The notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted and, in the case of an annual general meeting, shall specify the meeting as such.

The notice shall be given to all members and to the Trustees and auditors.

6. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

### **Proceedings at general meetings**

7. No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum is present. Ten persons entitled to vote upon the business to be transacted, each being a member or a duly authorised representative of a member organisation, or one tenth of the total number of such persons for the time being, whichever is the greater, shall constitute a quorum.
8. If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such time and place as the Trustees may determine.
9. The Convenor of the Enabling Group or in his absence the Deputy Convenor shall preside as chairman of the meeting
10. If the Convenor or Deputy Convenor is not present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the members present and entitled to vote shall choose one of their number to be chairman.
11. A Trustee shall, notwithstanding that he is not a member, be entitled to attend and speak at any general meeting.

12. The chairman may, with the consent of a meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting), adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than business which might properly have been transacted at the meeting had adjournment not taken place. When a meeting is adjourned for fourteen days or more, at least seven clear days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place of the adjourned meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. Otherwise it shall not be necessary to give any such notice.
13. A resolution put to the vote of a meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless before, or on the declaration of the result of, the show of hands a poll is duly demanded. Subject to the provisions of the Act, a poll may be demanded:-
  - 1) by the chairman; or
  - 2) by at least two members having the right to vote at the meeting; or
  - 3) by a member or members representing not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote at the meeting.
14. Unless a poll is duly demanded a declaration by the chairman that a resolution has been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost, or not carried by a particular majority and an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against the resolution.
15. The demand for a poll may be withdrawn, before the poll is taken, but only with the consent of the chairman. The withdrawal of a demand for a poll shall not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand for the poll was made.
16. A poll shall be taken as the chairman directs and he may appoint scrutineers (who need not be members) and fix a time and place for declaring the results of the poll. The result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll is demanded.
17. In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chairman shall be entitled to a casting vote in addition to any other vote he may have.
18. A poll demanded on the election of a chairman or on a question of adjournment shall be taken immediately. A poll demanded on any other question shall be taken either immediately or at such time and place as the chairman directs not being more than thirty days after the poll is demanded. The demand for a poll shall not prevent continuance of a meeting for the transaction of any business other than the question on which the poll is demanded. If a poll is demanded before the declaration of the result of a show of hands and the demand is duly withdrawn, the meeting shall continue as if the demand had not been made.
19. No notice need be given of a poll not taken immediately if the time and the place at which it is to be taken are announced at the meeting at which it is demanded. In other cases at least seven days' notice shall be given specifying the time and place at which the poll is to be taken.

## **Votes of members**

20. Subject to Articles 17 and 25 and any provision of the Rules, every member shall have one vote.
21. No member shall be entitled to vote at any general meeting unless all moneys then payable by him to the Charity have been paid.
22. No objection shall be raised to the qualification of any voter except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting shall be valid. An objection made in due time shall be referred to the chairman whose decision shall be final and conclusive.
23. A vote given or poll demanded by the duly authorised representative of a member organisation shall be valid notwithstanding the previous determination of the authority of the person voting or demanding a poll unless notice of the determination was received by the Charity at the office before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote is given or the poll demanded or (in the case of a poll taken otherwise than on the same day as the meeting or adjourned meeting) the time appointed for taking the poll.
24. Any organisation which is a member of the Charity may by resolution of its Council or other governing body authorise such person as it thinks fit to act as its representative at any meeting of the Charity, and the person so authorised shall be entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the organisation which he represents as the organisation could exercise if it were an individual member of the Charity.
25. No resolution to make any variation of the Memorandum may be made and no resolution to dissolve or wind up the Charity shall be made unless:
  - 1) at least six months written notice of the proposed resolution is given to the Member Churches;
  - 2) such resolution is approved by at least 75% of the Member Churches.

## **Trustees**

26. The number of Trustees shall be not less than nine but (unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be more than fifteen of which a majority shall be nominated by the Member Churches.
27. The first Trustees shall be those persons named in the statement delivered pursuant to Section 10(2) of the Act, who shall be deemed to have been appointed under the Articles. Future Trustees shall be appointed as provided subsequently in the Articles.

## **Powers of Trustees**

28. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Memorandum and the Articles and to any directions given by special resolution, the business of the Charity shall be

managed by the Trustees who may exercise all the powers of the Charity. No alteration of the Memorandum or the Articles and no such direction shall invalidate any prior act of the Trustees which would have been valid if that alteration had not been made or that direction had not been given. The powers given by this Article shall not be limited by any special power given to the Trustees by the Articles and a meeting of Trustees at which a quorum is present may exercise all the powers exercisable by the Trustees.

29. In addition to all powers hereby expressly conferred upon them and without detracting from the generality of their powers under the Articles the Trustees shall have the following powers, namely:
- 1) to expend the funds of the Charity in such manner as they shall consider most beneficial for the achievement of the objects and to invest in the name of the Charity such part of the funds as they may see fit and to direct the sale or transposition of any such investments and to expend the proceeds of any such sale in furtherance of the objects of the Charity;
  - 2) to enter into contracts on behalf of the Charity.

### **Appointment and retirement of Trustees**

30. At each annual general meeting one third of the Trustees shall retire from office by rotation or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, the number nearest to one third shall retire from office; but, if there is only one Trustee who is subject to retirement by rotation, he shall retire.
31. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment, but as between persons who became or were last reappointed Trustees on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot.
32. If the Charity at the meeting at which a Trustee retires by rotation, does not fill the vacancy the retiring Trustee shall, if willing to act, be deemed to have been reappointed unless at the meeting it is resolved not to fill the vacancy or unless a resolution for the reappointment of the Trustee is put to the meeting and lost.
33. No person may be appointed as a Trustee:
- 1) if they are under the age of 18 years unless the Charity is a registered company; or
  - 2) in circumstances such that, had he already been a Trustee, he would have been disqualified from acting under the provisions of Article 38.
34. Not less than seven nor more than twenty-eight clear days before the date appointed for holding a general meeting notice shall be given to all persons who are entitled to receive notice of the meeting of any person who is recommended by the Trustees for appointment or reappointment as a Trustee at the meeting or in respect of whom notice has been duly given to the Charity of the intention to propose him at the meeting for appointment or reappointment as Trustee. The notice shall give particulars of that person which would, if he were so

appointed or reappointed, be required to be included in the Charity's register of Trustees.

35. Subject as aforesaid, the Charity may by ordinary resolution appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Trustee either to fill a vacancy or as an additional Trustee.
36. Subject as aforesaid, a Trustee who retires at an annual general meeting may, if willing to act may be reappointed.

### **Disqualification and removal of Trustees**

37. A Trustee shall cease to hold office if he:
  - 1) ceases to be a Trustee by virtue of any provision in the Act or is disqualified from acting as a Trustee by virtue of Section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);
  - 2) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his own affairs;
  - 3) resigns his office by notice to the Charity (but only if at least two Trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect); or
  - 4) is absent without the permission of the Trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the Trustees resolve that his office be vacated.

### **Trustees' expenses**

38. The Trustees may be paid all reasonable travelling, hotel and other expenses properly incurred by them in connection with their attendance at meetings of Trustees or committees of Trustees or general meetings or otherwise in connection with the discharge of their duties, but shall otherwise be paid no remuneration.

### **Trustees' appointments**

39. Except to the extent permitted by Clause 5 of the Memorandum, no Trustee shall take or hold any interest in property belonging to the Charity or receive remuneration or be interested otherwise than as a Trustee in any other contract to which the Charity is a party.
40. A meeting of Trustees may take place by means of telephone conference.

### **Proceedings of Trustees**

41. Subject to the provisions of the Articles, the Trustees may regulate their proceedings as they think fit. A Trustee may, and the secretary at the request of

a Trustee shall, call a meeting of the Trustees. It shall not be necessary to give notice of a meeting to a Trustee who is absent from the United Kingdom. Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

42. The quorum for the transaction of the business of the Trustees may be fixed by the Trustees but shall not be less than one third of their number or two Trustees, whichever is the greater.
43. The Trustees may act notwithstanding any vacancies in their number, but, if the number of Trustees is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing Trustees or Trustee may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.
44. The Chairman of the Trustees shall be elected by the Members in General Meeting for an initial term of three years and may be re-elected for further term of three years. If the Trustee holding it is unwilling to preside or is not present within five minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the Trustees present may appoint one of their number to be chairman of the meeting.
45. The Trustees may appoint one or more sub-committees consisting of three or more Trustees for the purpose of making any inquiry or supervising or performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the Trustees would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee; provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committees shall be fully and promptly reported to the Trustees.
46. All acts done by a meeting of Trustees, or of a committee of Trustees, shall, notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was a defect in the appointment of any Trustee or that any of them were disqualified from holding office, or had vacated office, or were not entitled to vote, be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed and was qualified and had continued to be a Trustee and had been entitled to vote.
47. A resolution in writing, signed by all the Trustees entitled to receive notice of a meeting of Trustees or of a committee of Trustees, shall be as valid and effective as if it had been passed at a meeting of Trustees or (as the case may be) a committee of Trustees duly convened and held. Such a resolution may consist of several documents in the same form, each signed by one or more of the Trustees.
48. Any bank account in which any part of the assets of the Charity is deposited shall be operated by the Trustees and shall indicate the name of the Charity. All cheques and orders for the payment of money from such account shall be signed by at least two Trustees.

## **Secretary**

49. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Secretary shall be appointed by the Trustees for such term, at such remuneration (if not a Trustee) and upon such conditions as they may think fit; and any Secretary so appointed may be removed by them.

## **Minutes**

50. The Trustees shall keep minutes in books kept for the purpose:
- 1) of all appointments of officers made by the Trustees; and
  - 2) of all proceedings at meetings of the Charity and of the Trustees and of committees of Trustees including the names of the Trustees present at each such meeting.

## **The Seal**

51. The Seal shall only be used by the authority of the Trustees or of a committee of Trustees authorised by the Trustees. The Trustees may determine who shall sign any instrument to which the Seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it shall be signed by a Trustee and by the Secretary or by a second Trustee.

## **Accounts**

52. Accounts shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part VII of the Act.

## **Annual Report**

53. The Trustees shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to the preparation of an annual report and its transmission to the Commissioners.

## **Annual Return**

54. The Trustees shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to the preparation of an annual return and its transmission to the Commissioners.

## **Notices**

55. Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to the Articles shall be in writing except that a notice calling a meeting of the Trustees need not be in writing.
56. The Charity may give any notice to a member either personally or by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at his registered address or by leaving it at that address. A member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the company an address within the United Kingdom at which notices may be given to him shall be entitled to have notices given to him at that address, but otherwise no such member shall be entitled to receive any notice from the Charity.

57. A member present in person at any meeting of the Charity shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and, where necessary, of the purposes for which it was called.
58. Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. A notice shall be deemed to be given at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted.

## **Indemnity**

59. Subject to the provisions of the Act every Trustee or other officer or auditor of the Charity shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Charity against any liability incurred by him in that capacity in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the Charity.

## **60. Rules**

- 1) The Members may from time to time make such rules or bye laws as they may deem necessary or expedient or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the Charity and for the purposes of prescribing classes of and conditions of membership, and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, they may by such rules or bye laws regulate:
  - i. the admission and classification of members of the Charity (including the admission of organisations to membership) and the rights and privileges of such members, and the conditions of membership and the terms on which members may resign or have their membership terminated and the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by members;
  - ii. the conduct of members of the Charity in relation to one another, and to the Charity's servants;
  - iii. the setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the Charity's premises at any particular time or times or for any particular purpose or purposes;
  - iv. the procedure at general meetings and meetings of the Trustees and committees of the Trustees in so far as such procedure is not regulated by the Articles;
  - v. generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of company rules.
- 2) The Charity in general meeting shall have power to alter, add to or repeal the rules or bye laws and the Trustees shall adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring to the notice of members of the Charity all such

rules or bye laws, which shall be binding on all members of the Charity.  
Provided that no rule or bye law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect  
or repeal anything contained in, the Memorandum or the Articles.

**Signatures, Names and Addresses of Subscribers**

Reverend Peter Whittaker  
19 Wentworth Court .....  
Rastrick  
Brighthouse  
HD6 3XD

Mrs. Pauline Mary Johnson  
Treanor .....  
The Vicarage  
Churchfield Street  
Batley  
West Yorkshire  
WF17 5DL

**Dated:**

**Witness to the above Signatures:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Occupation:**

## **SCHEDULE A: List of Member Churches**

Baptist Union of Great Britain

Cherubim & Seraphim Council of Churches

Church of England

Church of Scotland (in England)

Congregational Federation

Coptic Orthodox Church

Council of African & Caribbean Churches

Council of Oriental Orthodox Christian Churches

Ichthus Christian Fellowship

Independent Methodist Churches

International Ministerial Council of Great Britain

Joint Council for Anglo-Caribbean Churches

Lutheran Council of Great Britain

Methodist Church

Moravian Church

New Testament Assembly

Oecumenical Patriarchate (Archdiocese of Thyateira and GB)

Religious Society of Friends

Roman Catholic Church

Russian Orthodox Church

Salvation Army

United Reformed Church

Wesleyan Holiness Church