



Registered Charity Number: 1113815

Revised Constitution and Standing Orders

Previous Constitution adopted 25th February 2015

Revision approved by: The Enabling Group of Churches Together in Greater Bristol

Proposed for assent: Annual General Meeting
Of Churches Together in Greater Bristol

To be held via 'zoom'

On: 19th November 2020

Members of The Constitution Working Group

CTGB Chair: Revd Eric Aidoo

CTGB Enabler for Unity and Mission: Roger Allen

CTGB Secretary: Alan Paginton

Reverend Chris Dobson: Diocese of Bristol

Carlotta Kramskoy: Diocese of Clifton

I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.

*Philemon 1:6 **New International Version (NIV)***

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN GREATER BRISTOL (CTGB) AKA TOGETHER FOR BRISTOL

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The charity (*Registered Charity Number: 1113815*) shall be called **Churches Together in Greater Bristol** and shall also be also known as **'Together for Bristol' (CTGB/T4B)**

2. AREA

The area covered by CTGB/T4B shall be the geographical area of Greater Bristol (defined as the area covered by the Anglican Diocese of Bristol deaneries of Bristol South, Bristol West, Kingswood & South Gloucestershire and City).

3. BASIS

The basis of CTGB/T4B is that it is a fellowship of churches and other bodies which confesses the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and therefore seeks to fulfil a common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

United in pilgrimage, these churches and other bodies (building on the tradition of inter-church co-operation that has existed in Greater Bristol 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;

To fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service;

To further the relationship that exist between the churches and other bodies, local authorities, statutory bodies and other organisations to promote the well-being of all the citizens in the area.

All CTB/T4B member churches accept this Basis though an exception is made for 'any Church or Association of Churches which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition and therefore cannot formally subscribe to the statement of faith in the Basis provided it satisfies 75% in number of those full members 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 Greater Bristol and that it will work in the spirit of the Basis'. The Religious Society of Friends is a member of CTGB/T4B under this clause.

4 ASSOCIATION

CTGB/T4B shall be associated with Churches Together in England and shall relate to other ecumenical bodies in the South West region.

5 OBJECTS

The objects of CTGB/T4B will be the advancement of the Christian religion and other purposes which are charitable according to the Law of England and Wales.

6 AIMS

The aims of CTGB/T4B shall be:

- a. To become a visible sign of our Christian and church commitment to one another.
- b. To help the Church fulfil their call to proclaim the Good News in common witness and service.
- c. To enable and challenge churches and Christians not to do alone, what we might do together.
- d. To foster networks of relationship between churches, civic authorities and other organisations which promote the well-being of all citizens of Bristol and surrounding areas.
- e. To provide support and encouragement for all those seeking to work ecumenically.

7 MEMBERSHIP

Members of CTGB/T4B will assent to the Basis and Aims of CTGB/T4B. Also eligible are those who are existing full members of Churches Together in England. New applications for full membership of Churches Together in Greater Bristol and for all categories of membership are subject to procedures outlined in the standing orders.

Full Membership is open to:

- i. A church that is a larger body than a single local congregation, for example, a Church of England Diocese or a Methodist District.
- ii. An association of churches bringing together into one body a number of local congregations who belong to a common Christian tradition, for example, a Baptist Association.

Associate Membership (Churches) is open to:

- i. Single local congregations not represented in 7a above.
- ii. Churches or associations of churches in the Greater Bristol area who do not wish to apply for full membership, or if membership under 7a would for some reason be inappropriate.

Associate Membership (Other) is open to:

Bodies (associations, networks, movements, etc.) that bring together Christians of different traditions for purposes congruent with the Basis and Objects of CTGB/T4B.

8 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Full members will meet as an Annual General Meeting to receive reports of the work of CTGB/T4B, to approve annual accounts and to appoint Trustees. Full members are entitled to send two people as voting representatives and associate members are entitled to attend as observers with the right to speak.

9 TRUSTEES

- a. The Trustees of CTGB/T4B shall comprise
 - i. Each President may appoint one trustee who by virtue of office becomes a member of the enabling group.
 - ii. The Chair of the Enabling Group will be a Trustee by virtue of office.
 - iii. The trustees may co-opt two further members having particular skills or abilities for a fixed period of office as defined in the Standing Orders.
 - iv. The Trustees may co-opt a secretary who will not have voting rights.
- b. The Chair of the Trustees will be appointed from among its membership.
- c. Trustees will serve for a specific period of office as outlined in the standing orders of CTGB/T4B.
- d. The Trustees will normally meet at least three times a year. One of these meetings may be an open meeting run concurrently with the AGM.
- e. Trustee meetings will be quorate when half of the elected or appointed trustees are present.
- f. The Trustee body will be served by the Enabling Group.
- g. The Trustees may establish projects, groups and committees to further the work of CTGB/T4B. The standing orders will include Terms of Reference for each group.

10 THE ENABLING GROUP

- a. The Enabling Group is the management committee of CTGB/T4B and shall comprise:
 - i. The trustees
 - ii. One representative from each of the full member Churches
 - iii. An honorary treasurer
- b. The Enabling Group may co-opt a secretary who will have no voting rights and will serve for a limited period as defined in the Standing Orders.
- c. The Enabling Group may co-opt additional members having particular skills or abilities for a fixed period of office as defined in the Standing Orders.
- d. Salaried employees or those contracted to carry out work on behalf of CTGB/T4B may attend by invitation but are not entitled to vote.
- e. Unless the Presidents establish a separate body, the Enabling Group will act as the Sponsoring Body for Local Ecumenical Partnerships in the Greater Bristol area.
- f. The Trustees will appoint the chair of the Enabling Group for a fixed period of office as defined in the standing orders. The chair of the Enabling Group will be a Trustee by virtue of appointment.

11 FINANCE

- a. The Trustees alone shall have the power to invite full members and associate members to pay an annual subscription. In addition, the Trustees shall have the right to seek private donations towards the furtherance of their work.
- b. The title of any property, which may be acquired by or for the purposes of CTGB/T4B, shall be vested in Trustees who shall enter into a Deed of Trust setting forth the purposes and conditions under which they hold the said property for CTGB/T4B. The acquisition of a title of any property requires the support of the annual meeting or special meeting of members.

12 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- a. A meeting of all members of CTGB/T4B shall consider any amendments to the Constitution. It is the responsibility of members to discuss Constitutional amendments with their nominating bodies. Proposals to amend the Constitution must be circulated to all members at least three months before they can be considered. Amendments must be approved by at least 67% of the full members present and voting.
- b. No amendments can be made to the Constitution that would cease to make CTGB/T4B a charity in law.

13 DISSOLUTION OF THE CHARITY

- a. A motion to dissolve CTGB/T4B must be circulated to all members at least three months before it can be considered by a special meeting of members when the support of at least 67% of full members is required for the motion to be successful. It will be the responsibility of all members to discuss the proposal for dissolution with their nominating bodies.
- b. Any residual funds shall be allocated to Christian charitable organisations designated by the Trustees.

Approved by the
Enabling Group of CTGB/T4B

