

# THE CONSTITUTION OF METHODIST EVANGELICALS TOGETHER

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## 1. NAME

- 1.1. This Movement whose aims are set out below, shall be known as Methodist Evangelicals Together.

## 2. AIMS

- 2.1. The aims of the Movement shall be **the advancement of the Christian Religion by:**
  - 2.1.1. The promotion of the renewal and revival of the work, worship and witness of the Church, particularly within Methodism, through prayer and in the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - 2.1.2. The encouragement of prayer for revival at a personal level, and in the church at home and overseas.
  - 2.1.3. The furtherance of informed theological discussion in the Church.
  - 2.1.4. The furtherance of thinking and action on ethical and social issues in a responsible and compassionate way based on the belief that the righteous will of God must be expressed in the life of society.
  - 2.1.5. The promotion of joint action with evangelical Christians in all denominations of the Church in local and national events.
  - 2.1.6. The promotion of mature Christian spirituality in the lives of all members of the Church.

## 3. BASIS OF FAITH

- 3.1. The basis of faith of the Movement shall be that of the Evangelical Alliance, namely: We believe in...
  - 3.1.1. The one true God who lives eternally in three persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
  - 3.1.2. The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
  - 3.1.3. The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God – fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
  - 3.1.4. The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement.
  - 3.1.5. The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ – born of the Virgin Mary, truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.
  - 3.1.6. The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.
  - 3.1.7. The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruits of our resurrection; his ascension to the Father, and his reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.
  - 3.1.8. The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.
  - 3.1.9. The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.
  - 3.1.10. The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers – given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.

- 3.1.11. The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.
- 3.2. Within the context of this basis, the Movement is specifically committed to the Methodist understanding of salvation as set out in the 'FOUR ALLS':
- 3.2.1. All need to be saved.
- 3.2.2. All can be saved.
- 3.2.3. All can know themselves to be saved.
- 3.2.4. All can be saved to the uttermost.

#### **4. METHODS**

- 4.1 The Movement shall work towards the aims listed above by the encouragement of prayer, spirituality, evangelism and social concern, both individual and corporate, in the lives of its members and in the Church generally, by arranging such meetings and conferences, both local and national, as shall promote these objects. It shall publish a periodical magazine and other appropriate literature. It shall organise groups for the study of particular theological, practical and social issues. It shall adopt any other means such as shall commend themselves to the Executive Committee, but nothing shall be done which shall not be consonant with activities of a charitable religious association.

#### **5. MEMBERSHIP**

- 5.1 Full membership shall be open to any member of the Methodist Church who is in sympathy with the aims and basis of the Movement. Associate Membership shall be open to non-members of the Methodist Church who are in sympathy with the aims and basis of the Movement. Only full members shall be eligible to vote at Meetings of the Movement and to serve on its Committees.

#### **6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 6.1. The affairs of Methodist Evangelicals Together shall be directed by an Executive Committee, which shall consist of the following officers:
- The Chair
  - The Vice Chair
  - The General Secretary
  - The Finance Secretary
  - And such other executive officers as appointed at the Annual General Meeting. This shall include the ability to appoint more than one Vice Chair.
- 6.2. The Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting save that the Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt other members to it, as it considers necessary. The number of co-opted members shall not exceed one quarter of the total number of members of the Executive Committee at any one time.
- 6.3. Executive Committee members elected at the Annual General Meeting shall be appointed for a period of three years. At the end of their term of office Executive Committee members are eligible for re-election for a further period of three years. Following a period in office of six consecutive years an Executive Committee member will not be eligible for re-election or co-option until there has been a break of at least one year in office unless the following conditions apply.
- 6.4. An existing member of the Committee may, exceptionally, serve beyond the normal maximum period of six years without a break in office for a further period of no more than three years. The procedure for such an extension in office requires:
- The full support of the Executive Committee; and

- A reasoned statement of the proposed appointment to be published to all members either by letter or in the organisations magazine prior to the relevant Annual General Meeting; and
  - A reasoned statement of the proposed appointment being presented at the Annual General Meeting prior to the election of the relevant office.
- 6.5. In respect of the office of Chair, any time served on the Executive Committee in any other capacity, shall not be taken into account in determining the maximum time in office that can be served without a break as outlined above. This enables every Chair to serve a maximum of two terms in office in such a capacity, subject to re-election by the Annual General Meeting without a break in office.
- 6.6. Two other full members must nominate members seeking election or re-election to the Executive Committee. Such nominations shall be in writing to the General Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. The agreement of the nominee must be obtained. If no or insufficient nominations have been received nominations may be taken from the floor of the meeting at the Annual General Meeting.
- 6.7. If a casual vacancy occurs on the Executive Committee in between Annual General Meetings, such vacancy may be filled by the Executive Committee but only until the next Annual General Meeting.
- 6.8. The total number of elected Executive Committee Members shall not be less than 6 and no greater than 25. The number of elected members to serve to be determined by the Annual General Meeting each year prior to any elections. This number is not to include any co-opted members.
- 6.9. The quorum for the Executive Committee shall be 6, two at least of which shall be officers. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year.
- 6.10. The Executive Committee may employ staff to further the aims and work of the Movement. Any such staff will be employed according to the conditions of employment current within the Methodist Church at that time.
- 6.11. The Executive Committee shall deal with all matters relating to the Movement as a whole. This shall include policy, finance, budgets and property. The Executive Committee shall give guidance to all Working Committees on all matters of policy and planning and decide on any new work.
- 6.12. The Executive Committee shall ensure that the various parts of the Movement are kept in touch with each other, deal with all policy in relation to advocacy and contact with the media.
- 6.13. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for agreeing budgets for any working committee or project and the composite budget for the Movement. This will include subscription and other special levies to ensure that all aspects of the Movement are viable.

## **7. WORKING COMMITTEES**

- 7.1. The Executive Committee may delegate any of its responsibilities or functions to a Working Committee or Working Committees. Such Working Committees may be standing committees or ad hoc committees formed for a specific project. The remit and the scope of the decision-making ability of any such Working Committee must be included in the written minutes of the Executive Committee.
- 7.2. The members of such a working committee shall be appointed by the Executive and where necessary reviewed annually. The Executive Committee may change the membership of any such committee at any time and the Executive Committee may dissolve any such group at any time. An elected member of the Executive Committee will chair any such working committee.

- 7.3. The Chair of a Working Committee shall report back to the Executive Committee as soon as possible all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committee. Where the Executive Committee has delegated any of its responsibilities or functions to a Working Committee minutes shall be kept of any meeting of the Working Committee. A copy of any minutes shall be supplied to the Chair and General Secretary as soon as possible and provided to the rest of the Executive Committee at its next meeting.
- 7.4. The appointment of any Working Committees and their remit shall be reported at the Annual General Meeting.

## **8. DELEGATION OF POWERS**

- 8.1 The Executive Committee shall have the power to delegate to the Chairman or other named elected members the ability to make decisions on behalf of the Movement in between meetings of the Executive Committee. The remit of any such delegated authority must be included in the written minutes of the relevant Executive Committee Meeting. The exercise of any such delegated authority must be reported to the Executive Committee as soon as possible.
- 8.2. The Executive Committee shall have the power to delegate to any named employed member of staff the ability to make decisions on behalf of the Movement in between meetings of the Executive Committee. The remit of any such delegated authority must be included in the written minutes of the relevant Executive Committee Meeting. The exercise of any such delegated authority must be reported to the Executive Committee as soon as possible.

## **9. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- 9.1. **Alterations to this Constitution shall receive the assent of two thirds of the members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting. A resolution for the alteration of the Constitution must be received by the General Secretary at least 21 days before the Meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least 14 days notice of such meeting must be given by the General Secretary to the Membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed. Provided that no alteration shall be made to clause 2 (objects), clause 10 (dissolution) or this clause without the prior written consent of the Charity Commissioners and no alteration would be made which would have the effect of causing the Association to cease to be a charity in law.**

## **10. DISSOLUTION**

- 10.1. **The Movement may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for the purpose of which 21 days notice shall have been given to the members. Such resolution shall give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Movement, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among members of the Movement but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Movement. If and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision, then to some other charitable purpose.**

## **11. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 11.1 The Annual General Meeting of Methodist Evangelicals Together shall be held on a date set at the previous year's AGM and published in the magazine as early as possible.