

The Inclusive Church Network

Amendments to the Constitution agreed by the Board 19th May 2021 to be put to the AGM on 23rd August for agreement

This paper explains the nature of, and reasons for, the amendment agreed by the Board. The agreement of the AGM is now sought, by special resolution, so that the amendments may be ratified, following which they will be notified to the Charity Commission.

A: Corrections

There are very minor corrections to clauses A, E1 (spellings and grammar); the amended Statement of Belief adopted by the 2019 AGM has replaced the previous version in Schedule 1

B: Clarifications

- i. Clause E2 has been added, making a specific requirement that there should be a Register of Members.
- ii. The term of office of Honorary Officers is clarified in Clause F.
- iii. The composition of the Board (including co-opted trustees), and their term of office is clarified in Clause G.

C: Changes

- i. The Board is proposing to introduce an expectation of affiliated churches that they will make an appropriate annual financial contribution. This may be on a sliding scale, but it is not necessary to specify this in the Constitution. Clause E4 has been amended to reflect this, and some of the wording in this clause has been clarified.
- ii. The requirement for a church (locally or denominationally) to be a member of Churches Together or Evangelical Alliance has been removed. This was introduced originally to ensure that there was a filter on membership (seeking to avoid potential extremes) when the number of affiliated churches was small. It is regarded as no longer necessary.
- iii. There is no provision in the current Constitution for meetings to be anything other than physical (that is, at a set time and place). Clauses J2 and P2 have been amended to allow virtual meetings or virtual participation in physical meetings, both for the Board and general meetings of Members (including the AGM), and to allow those attending virtually to have a vote on any matter.
- iv. The Board has agreed that there should be Financial Procedures and Levels of Authority to regulate financial transactions. This replaces the previous requirement which simply specified 2 signatures on a cheque. This provision is covered in clause K.
- v. It is currently a requirement that nominations for elections to the Board have to be with the Secretary in writing at least 14 days before the AGM (the notice period for which is 21 days). The Board propose to allow nominations by email, and have shortened the notice period to seven days (Clause P6).

The Special Resolution proposing these changes will be included with the Agenda for the AGM. To be brought into effect, it will need to be agreed by at least 80% of those members present and voting.