

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



CONSTITUTION

FOR THE
NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR
ENGLAND, WALES AND
NORTHERN IRELAND

(Effective from 1st September 2018)

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

WHEREAS:

1. The World Day of Prayer in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (hereinafter called “the Movement”) is part of the World Day of Prayer Movement which operates through its International Committee and through National Committees in those countries where it is established. It is a Movement initiated and carried out by women cutting across barriers of race, culture, and tradition.
2. The aim of the Movement is to unite Christians in prayer:
 - a) by means of services held on the first Friday in March in each year
 - b) by fostering local interdenominational prayer groups and other activities bringing women together in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year
 - c) by distribution of Christian literature as hereinafter defined
 - d) by supporting women throughout the world with informed prayer and prayerful action.
3. The activities of the Movement in England and Wales and Northern Ireland are directed by the National Committee for that area. Amendments were made from time to time to the 1972 Constitution of that committee all of which have been incorporated in the constitution here following the same being effective from the 1st September 2018.
4. The common basis of faith adopted by each member of the National Committee is that she confesses the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and therefore seeks to fulfil together with other members of the National Committee their common calling to the glory of the one God Father Son and Holy Spirit.

CONSTITUTION

Name

1. The Committee shall be called the National Committee of the World Day of Prayer for England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Objects:

2. The objects of the Committee are to promote the aim of the Movement as set out in the preamble hereto and in furtherance of the said objects but not otherwise the Committee shall have the following powers:

- a) to organise and arrange for the observance of the World Day of Prayer
- b) to receive the basic world Order of Service each year; to adapt it when necessary and to publish and issue it together with any other material relevant to the ensuing Day of Prayer
- c) to promote and support opportunities for corporate prayer by means of conferences, quiet days and other gatherings
- d) to promote, strengthen and encourage the work of the World Day of Prayer International Committee and other national committees throughout the Movement
- e) to assist financially or otherwise projects run by Christian Charities throughout the world.

Membership

3. The Committee shall consist of not less than twelve nor more than thirty members and shall comprise the following persons:
 - a) A President, Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson elected as hereinafter provided
 - b) one representative appointed by such religious denominations as the Committee shall from time to time

resolve, one representative appointed by the Welsh Speaking Committee of the Movement in Wales, one representative from the English Speaking Churches in Wales, and one representative appointed by the Movement in Northern Ireland (all such representatives being hereinafter referred to as “representative members”)

- c) co-opted members not exceeding five in number who may be appointed by resolution of the members of the Committee for the time being
 - d) the Vice-Chairperson shall serve for two years, then automatically become the Chairperson of the Committee for a further two years, then President for a further term of two years subject always to the provisions of Clause 10 hereof
 - e) if there be no paid Administrator in office an Honorary Treasurer who shall be elected by the committee (either from among its members or otherwise) and who on acceptance of such appointment shall be ex-officio a member of the Committee and shall have power to accept and sign for any bequests
4. a) representative members shall hold office for a period of three years from the start of the September meeting. They shall be eligible for re-appointment for not more than two further terms of three years
- b) Co-opted members shall normally serve for a period of not more than three years
 - c) No member of the Committee shall be entitled to appoint any person to be an alternative member so as to attend meetings of the Committee in her place.

Vice-Chairperson and Appointed Officers

5. The Committee shall from their number elect in manner hereinafter provided:
 - a) a Vice-Chairperson who shall serve for a period of two years beginning in September. If a representative member her appointment as such shall cease on her election and the denomination by whom she was appointed shall appoint another representative member. If a co-opted member before her election the Vice-Chairperson shall not thereafter be included in the number of such members provided for by Clause 3(c) hereof
 - b) two Appointed Officers who shall serve for a period of one year beginning in September

Election of Vice Chairperson and Appointed Officer/s

6. Written notice containing a statement of a member's rights under the Clause shall be given to each member at least twenty-eight days before a ballot for the election of a Vice-Chairperson or Appointed Officers is to take place. This shall be at the appropriate Annual General Meeting or at a meeting held as soon as conveniently possible after the office in question becomes vacant. Every member shall have the right to nominate any other member of the Committee to the vacant office. Such nominations which must be in writing shall be delivered to the Administrator at least fourteen days before the time for holding the meeting, who shall then seek the consent of the nominated member. Notification of nominees' names should be circulated prior to the meeting.
7. At every meeting at which a Vice-Chairperson or Appointed Officers are to be elected ballot papers shall be distributed to the members present who shall indicate their choice by secret poll in such manner as the Chairperson of the meeting shall direct.

8. At the election of a Vice-Chairperson or Appointed Officers an absent member may appoint a proxy who shall be a member of the Committee to vote on her behalf.
9. No person shall be elected as Vice-Chairperson unless she has previously served as an Appointed Officer

Basis of Faith

10. No person shall be eligible to become a member of the Committee until she shall have read and agreed to the Declaration contained in the Schedule hereto. Provided that a representative of a non-credal Church shall not be required to agree to the said Declaration if such a Church is a member of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland.

Determination of Membership

11. A member of the Committee shall cease to hold office:
 - a) if she is adjudicated a bankrupt
 - b) if she becomes of unsound mind, certified by a registered medical practitioner
 - c) if by notice in writing to the Committee she resigns her office
 - d) if she is removed from office by a Resolution passed by a majority of not less than three fourths of those present and voting at a meeting at which not less than half the members for the time being of the committee are present and for which written notice has been given of the proposed Resolution
 - e) on the termination of her period of office
 - f) if a representative member on the termination of her appointment by the organisation she represents.

Meetings of the Committee

12. The Annual General Meeting of the Committee shall if conveniently possible be held each year in the month of May. The Committee shall hold other meetings at least three times in each year at such times and places as they shall from time to time appoint.
13. The Chairperson or any three members may at any time summon a special meeting for any cause that seems to her or them sufficient.
14. The Chairperson, if any, shall preside as Chairperson at every meeting of the committee, but if there should be no such Chairperson, or she shall be unable or unwilling to preside, the Vice-Chairperson, or if she is unable or unwilling to preside, then the President shall preside. The Chairperson may with the consent of any meeting at which a quorum is present adjourn the meeting from time to time.
15. The Annual General Meeting shall be called by twenty-eight days' notice in writing at the least and any other meeting of the Committee by four days' notice in writing at the least. Such notice shall be delivered or sent through the post to each member by the Administrator and shall specify the place, the day and the hour of the meeting giving details of matters to be discussed. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by any person entitled to receive notice of it shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

Quorum and Voting

16. No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Committee unless a quorum of members is present when the meeting proceeds to business. There shall be a quorum when one third of the members is present and every matter shall be determined by a majority of members present and voting on the matter in question; in case of equality of votes

the Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote. If within thirty minutes from the time appointed for the holding of a meeting a quorum is not present the meeting shall stand adjourned to such other day at such other time and place as the Chairperson of the meeting shall appoint.

Sub-committees

17. The Committee may from time to time delegate any of its powers to such Sub-committees as it shall think fit and may recall or revoke such delegation or appointment and any Sub-committee so appointed shall in the exercise of the powers so delegated conform to any regulations that may be imposed upon it by the Committee; such Sub-committees shall duly report back on their findings.

18. All acts bona fide by any meeting of the Committee or any Sub-committee or by any person acting on behalf of a member of the Committee or any Sub-committee shall notwithstanding it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of any such member or person acting as aforesaid or that they or any of them were disqualified be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed and was qualified so to act.

Administration

19. The Committee shall appoint Administration staff as shall be required, who shall be subject to the contract and conditions of service in operation, for the time being, who shall perform such duties as the Committee shall reasonably require and who shall be paid such reasonable remuneration as the Committee shall from time to time resolve.

Administrator

20. The Administrator shall conduct the correspondence and other matters relating to the Committee and shall summon, attend and keep the minutes of all meetings of the Committee

and shall perform such other duties as the Committee may reasonably require.

Minutes

21. Proper Minutes of all meetings of the committee shall be entered in a Minute Book and shall be signed by the Chairperson of the meeting at the following meeting if they shall have been duly confirmed.

Accounts

22. The Committee shall cause proper books of account to be maintained by the Administrator, or her assistant. The Committee shall ensure compliance with the requirements of the Charities Acts regarding:

- a) the preparation of and the disclosure in the annual Financial Statements and Report of the Trustees; and
- b) the appointment of an auditor or suitably qualified Independent Examiner.

Both documents shall be submitted to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting.

Application of Income

23. The Committee may accept any donations and in particular any collection taken at services of World Day of Prayer and any bequests or endowments. After payment of any expenses of administration (including any pensions or retirement benefits awarded to employees or former employees of the Committee) and a reasonable contribution to the charitable expenses and work of the International Committee of the World Day of Prayer the Committee shall apply such donations and bequests and the income from such endowments to the making of grants towards projects run by Christian Charities and at the discretion of the Committee to other national committees. Subject to the provisions of Clause 27 no portion of the income or property of the Committee shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of profit to the members of the committee but nothing herein contained shall prevent the reimbursement to members

of the Committee of reasonable remuneration for services rendered or reasonable rent or a reasonable purchase price for any premises.

Local Committees

24. The Committee may authorise the formation of local committees formed to promote the aims of the Movement and to be affiliated to the National Committee which committees shall:

- a) comply with the directions of the National Committee
- b) use such literature as is issued or approved by the National Committee
- c) forward to the Administrator of the National Committee the full amount of offerings taken at the Services less the expenses thereof.

Patrons

25. The Committee may at any time and from time to time appoint any person whether a member or not to be a Patron for such period as the Committee shall determine but such office shall be an honorary office carrying no executive duties responsibilities or voting powers.

Liaison Officer

26. The Committee shall appoint a liaison officer to the International Committee of the Movement and shall be responsible for the expenses incurred by her in that capacity.

Trustees

27. There shall be not more than four Trustees of the Movement. The first Trustees shall be appointed by the Committee and the property of the Movement (other than cash which shall be under the control of the Administrator) shall be vested in them to be dealt with by them as the Committee shall from time to time direct by resolution (of which an entry in the minute Book shall be conclusive evidence). The Trustees shall

be indemnified against risk and expense out of the property of the movement. The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or on completion of their term of office or until removed from office by a resolution of the Committee who may for any reason which may seem sufficient to a majority of those present and voting at any meeting remove any Trustee or Trustees from the office of Trustee. Where by reason of any such death, resignation or completion of term of office or removal it shall appear necessary to the Committee that a new Trustee or Trustees shall be appointed or if the Committee shall deem it expedient to appoint an additional Trustee or Trustees the Committee shall by resolution nominate the person or persons to be appointed to be the new Trustee or Trustees. For the purpose of giving effect to such nomination the Chairperson is hereby nominated as the person to appoint new Trustees of the Movement within the meaning of Section 36 of the Trustees Act 1925 and she shall by deed duly appoint the person or persons so nominated by the Committee as the new Trustee or Trustees of the Movement and the provisos of the Trustees Act 1925 shall apply to any such appointment. Any statement of fact in any such deed of appointment shall be in favour of a person dealing bona fide and for the value with the Movement or the Committee by conclusive evidence of the fact so stated.

Provision of Trustees' Indemnity Insurance

28. The Trustees shall have power to provide indemnity insurance for themselves out of the income of the Charity. The insurance shall not extend to:

1. any claim arising from any act of omission which:
 - a) the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty;

or

b) was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard of whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not; and

2. the costs of an unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Trustees of the Charity.

Alterations to the Constitution

29. Alterations to the Constitution shall be passed by a majority of at least two thirds of those members of the Committee present and voting. A resolution for the alteration of the Constitution shall be received by the Administrator of the Committee at least twenty-one clear days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least fourteen clear days' notice in writing of such a meeting shall be given by the Administrator to the members and shall include notice of the alterations proposed. Provided that no alteration to Clause two or alteration enabling the purchase of Trustees' indemnity insurance shall be made without the approval of the court or the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction.

Dissolution

30. The Committee may at any time be dissolved by a Resolution passed by a majority of at least two thirds of those members of the Committee present and voting at a meeting of the Committee of which at least twenty-one clear days' notice shall have been sent to all members of the Committee. Such Resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets by or in the name of the Committee, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Committee 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 Committee as the Committee may with the approval of the

Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction determine.

31. In this Constitution words importing the singular number only shall include the plural number and vice versa and words importing the feminine gender only shall include the masculine gender.

THE SCHEDULE before referred to

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of

confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and therefore seek to fulfil together with other members of the National Committee of the World Day of Prayer their common calling to the glory of the one God Father Son and Holy Spirit.

World Day of Prayer
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