

# **Constitution for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Local Ecumenical Partnership**

## **1. Name**

The name of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“the LEP”) is **Sherbourne Community Church, Coventry**.

## **2. National location of principal office**

The LEP must have a principal office in England or Wales. The principal office of the LEP is in England.

## **3. Objects**

The objects of the LEP are, for the public benefit:

- (3.1) to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Denominations in the Area of Benefit. In furtherance of this object, but not otherwise, the LEP may engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):
- a) The celebration of public worship in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions agreed from time to time by the Participating Denominations;
  - b) The teaching of the Christian faith;
  - c) Mission and evangelism;
  - d) Pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved; and
  - e) The provision of facilities with a Christian ethos for the local community, including (but not restricted to) the elderly, the young and other groups with special needs.
- (3.2) to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the principles and practices agreed from time to time of the Participating Denominations by making grants to organisations in the UK and overseas.

## **4. Powers**

The LEP has power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, the LEP’s powers include power to:

- (4.1) borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of its property as security for the repayment of the money borrowed. The LEP must comply as appropriate with sections 124 and 125 of the Charities Act 2011 if it wishes to mortgage land;
- (4.2) buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;
- (4.3) sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the LEP. In exercising this power, the LEP must comply as appropriate with sections 117 and 119-123 of the Charities Act 2011;
- (4.4) employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of the LEP. The LEP may employ or remunerate an LEP trustee only to the extent that it is permitted to do so by clause 6 (Benefits and payments to LEP trustees and connected persons) and provided it complies with the conditions of that clause;

- (4.5) deposit or invest funds, employ a professional fund-manager, and arrange for the investments or other property of the LEP to be held in the name of a nominee, in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000.

## **5. Application of income and property**

- (5.1) The income and property of the LEP must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects.  
(a) An LEP trustee is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the LEP or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the LEP.

(b) An LEP trustee may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the LEP's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011.

(5.2)

- (5.2) None of the income or property of the LEP may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the LEP. This does not prevent a member or a connected person to a member who is not also an LEP trustee:

- (a) receiving a benefit from the LEP as a beneficiary of the LEP;
- (b) buying or receiving goods and/or services from the LEP on reasonable and proper terms;
- (c) selling goods, services or any interest in land to the LEP on reasonable and proper terms;
- (d) being employed by, or receiving remuneration from, the LEP on reasonable and proper terms;
- (e) receiving interest on money lent to the LEP at a reasonable and proper rate which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate);
- (f) receiving rent for premises let by the member or connected person to the LEP. The amount of rent and the other terms of the lease must be reasonable and proper; or
- (g) taking part in the normal trading and fundraising activities on the same terms as members of the public.

- 5.3 Nothing in this clause shall prevent an LEP trustee or a connected person to an LEP trustee receiving any benefit or payment which is authorised by Clause 6.

## **6. Benefits and payments to LEP trustees and connected persons to LEP trustees**

### **(6.1) *General provisions***

No LEP trustee or connected person may:

- (a) buy or receive any goods or services from the LEP on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;
- (b) sell goods, services, or any interest in land to the LEP;
- (c) be employed by, or receive remuneration from, the LEP;
- (d) receive any other financial benefit from the LEP;

unless the payment or benefit is permitted by sub-clause (2) of this clause, or authorised by the court, or the prior written consent of the Charity Commission ("the Commission") has been obtained. In this clause, a "financial benefit" means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.

(6.2) *Scope and powers permitting benefits to an LEP trustee or a connected person to an LEP trustee*

(a) An LEP trustee or a connected person to an LEP trustee may receive a benefit from the LEP as a beneficiary of the LEP provided that it is available generally to the beneficiaries of the LEP.

(b) An LEP trustee or a connected person to an LEP trustee may enter into a contract for the supply of services and/or goods to the LEP where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 185 to 188 of the Charities Act 2011.

(c) An LEP trustee or a connected person to an LEP trustee may receive interest on money lent to the LEP at a reasonable and proper rate which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate).

(d) An LEP trustee or a connected person to an LEP trustee may receive rent for premises let by the LEP trustee or connected person to the LEP. The amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease must be reasonable and proper. The LEP trustee concerned must withdraw from any meeting at which such a proposal or the rent or other terms of the lease are under discussion.

(e) Subject to sub-clause (4) of this clause an LEP trustee or connected person who is an appointed minister of the LEP duly appointed by one or more of the Participating Denominations may receive a stipend or other remuneration from the LEP for acting as such provided that majority of the LEP trustees then in office are not in receipt of remuneration authorised by clause 6.

(f) An LEP trustee or a connected person to an LEP trustee may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of the LEP on the same terms as members of the public.

(6.3) *Payment of a stipend or other remuneration – controls*

The LEP and its LEP trustees may only rely upon the authority provided by sub-clause (6.2)(e) of this clause if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

(a) The amount or maximum amount of the stipend or other remuneration is set out in a written agreement between the LEP and the LEP trustee or connected person concerned (“the minister”).

(b) The amount or maximum amount of the stipend or other remuneration does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances.

(c) The minister is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of his or her appointment as minister or the terms of that appointment.

(d) The minister does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of LEP trustees is present at the meeting.

(e) The reason for their decision is recorded by the LEP trustees in the minute book.

(f) A majority of the LEP trustees then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by clause 6.

(6.4) In sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause:

(a) “the LEP” includes any company in which the LEP:

(i) holds more than 50% of the shares; or

(ii) controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or

(iii) has the right to appoint one or more directors to the board of the company;

(b) “connected person” includes any person within the definition set out in clause 31 (Interpretation).

## **7. Conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty**

An LEP trustee must:

(7.1) declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the LEP or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the LEP which has not previously been declared; and

(7.2) absent himself or herself from any discussions of the LEP trustees in which it is possible that a conflict of interest will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of the LEP and any personal interest (including but not limited to any financial interest).

Any LEP trustee absenting himself or herself from any discussions in accordance with this clause must not vote or be counted as part of the quorum in any decision of the LEP trustees on the matter.

## **8. Liability of members to contribute to the assets of the LEP if it is wound up**

If the LEP is wound up, the members of the LEP have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

## **9. Membership of the LEP**

(9.1) *Membership*

(a) The members of the LEP will be:

i. any minister of the LEP duly appointed to the LEP by one or more of the Participating Denominations

ii. subject to clauses 9.1 (b) and (c), those persons who are members of one or more of the Participating Churches.

(b) Deleted  
Deleted

The members of Hearsall Baptist Church shall be those persons who are listed on the membership roll of Hearsall Baptist Church.

The members of Holyhead Road United Reformed Church shall be those persons who are listed on the membership roll of Holyhead Road United Reformed Church.

Deleted

- (c) Those who are ordained ministers of any of the Participating Denominations, who are not appointed to the LEP but are habitual worshippers in the LEP, may also be members of the LEP.
- (d) Corporate bodies may not be members of the LEP. A member must be an individual.
- (e) The LEP trustees must keep a register of names, addresses and denominational affiliation(s) of the members of the LEP.

(9.2) *Transfer of membership*

Membership of the LEP cannot be transferred to anyone else.

(9.3) *Duty of members*

It is the duty of each member of the LEP to exercise his or her powers as a member of the LEP in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the LEP.

(9.4) *Termination of membership*

Membership of the LEP comes to an end if:

- (i) in the case of a minister, the minister ceases to be a minister of the LEP duly appointed by one or more of the Participating Denominations; or
- (ii) in the case of any other members, the member ceases to be a member of any of the Participating Churches; or
- (iii) the member dies.

(9.5) *Deleted*

Deleted.

**10. Members' decisions**

(10.1) *General provisions*

Except for those decisions that must be taken in a particular way as indicated in sub-clause (3) of this clause, decisions of the members of the LEP must be taken by vote at a general meeting (being a meeting of the members of the LEP) as provided in sub-clause (2) of this clause.

(10.2) *Taking ordinary decisions by vote*

Subject to sub-clause (3) of this clause, any decision of the members of the LEP may be taken by means of a resolution at a general meeting. Such a resolution may be passed by a simple majority of votes cast at the meeting.

(10.3) *Decisions that must be taken in a particular way*

(a) Any decision to remove an LEP trustee must be taken in accordance with clause 15(2).

(b) Any decision to amend this constitution must be taken in accordance with clause 28 of this constitution (Amendment of Constitution).

(c) Any decision to wind up or dissolve the LEP must be taken in accordance with clause 29 of this constitution (Voluntary winding up or dissolution). Any decision to amalgamate or transfer the undertaking of the LEP to one or more other charities must be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011 and is subject to the approval of the Relevant Authority for each Participating Denomination.

**11. General meetings of members**

(11.1) *Types of general meeting*

There must be an annual general meeting (**AGM**) of the members of the LEP. The first AGM must be held within 18 months of the registration of the LEP, and subsequent AGMs must be held at intervals of not more than 13 months. The AGM must:

(a) receive the annual statement of accounts (duly audited or examined where applicable) and the LEP trustees' annual report;

(b) review the life and witness of the LEP;

(c) elect LEP trustees as required under clause 13; and

(d) consider any other business put before it by the LEP trustees.

Other general meetings of the members of the LEP may be held at any time **and must be convened on at least three occasions in each calendar year.**

All general meetings must be held in accordance with the following provisions.

(11.2) *Calling general meetings*

(a) The LEP trustees:

(i) must call the annual general meeting of the members of the LEP in accordance with sub-clause (1) of this clause, and identify it as such in the notice of the meeting; and

(ii) may call any other general meeting of the members at any time.

(b) The LEP trustees must, within 21 days, call a general meeting of the members of the LEP if:

(i) they receive a request to do so from at least 10% of the members of the LEP; and

(ii) the request states the general nature of the business to be dealt with at the meeting, and is authenticated by the members making the request.

(c) If, at the time of any such request, there has not been any general meeting of the members of the LEP for more than 12 months, then sub-clause (b)(i) of this clause shall have effect as if 5% were substituted for 10%.

(d) Any such request should include particulars of a resolution that may properly be proposed, and is intended to be proposed, at the meeting.

(e) A resolution may only properly be proposed if it is lawful, and is not defamatory, frivolous or vexatious.

(f) Any general meeting called by the LEP trustees at the request of the members of the LEP must be held within 28 days from the date on which it is called.

(g) If the LEP trustees fail to comply with this obligation to call a general meeting at the request of its members, then the members who requested the meeting may themselves call a general meeting.

(h) A general meeting called in this way must be held not more than 3 months after the date when the members first requested the meeting.

(i) The LEP must reimburse any reasonable expenses incurred by the members calling a general meeting by reason of the failure of the LEP trustees to duly call the meeting, but the LEP shall be entitled to be indemnified by the LEP trustees who were responsible for such failure.

#### (11.3) *Notice of general meetings*

(a) The LEP trustees, or, as the case may be, the relevant members of the LEP, must give at least 14 clear days' notice of any general meeting to all of the members

(b) If it is agreed by not less than 90% of all members of the LEP, any resolution may be proposed and passed at the meeting even though the requirements of sub-clause (3) (a) of this clause have not been met. This sub-clause does not apply where a specified period of notice is strictly required by another clause in this constitution, by the Charities Act 2011 or by the General Regulations.

(c) The notice of any general meeting must:

(i) state the time and date of the meeting;

(ii) give the address at which the meeting is to take place;

(iii) give particulars of any resolution which is to be moved at the meeting, and of the general nature of any other business to be dealt with at the meeting;

(iv) if a proposal to alter the constitution of the LEP is to be considered at the meeting, include the text of the proposed alteration; and

(v) include, with the notice for the AGM, the annual statement of accounts and LEP trustees' annual report, details of persons standing for election or re-election as LEP trustee, or where allowed under clause 22 (Use of electronic communication), details of where the information may be found on the LEP's website.

(d) Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted, or that an electronic form of notice was properly addressed and sent, shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. Notice shall be deemed to be given 48 hours after it was posted or sent.

(e) The proceedings of a meeting shall not be invalidated because a member who was entitled to receive notice of the meeting did not receive it because of accidental omission by the LEP.

(11.4) *Chairing of general meetings*

The person nominated as chair by the LEP trustees under clause 19(2) (Chairing of meetings), shall, if present at the general meeting and willing to act, preside as chair of the meeting. Subject to that, the members of the LEP who are present at a general meeting shall elect a chair to preside at the meeting.

(11.5) *Quorum at general meetings*

(a) No business may be transacted at any general meeting of the members of the LEP unless a quorum is present when the meeting starts.

(b) Subject to the following provisions, the quorum for general meetings shall be the greater of 20% or three members.

(c) If the meeting has been called by or at the request of the members and a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the starting time specified in the notice of the meeting, the meeting is closed.

(d) If the meeting has been called in any other way and a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the starting time specified in the notice of the meeting, the chair must adjourn the meeting. The date, time and place at which the meeting will resume must either be announced by the chair or be notified to the LEP's members at least seven clear days before the date on which it will resume.

(e) If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the start time of the adjourned meeting, the member or members present at the meeting constitute a quorum.

(f) If at any time during the meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting may discuss issues and make recommendations to the LEP trustees but may not make any decisions. If decisions are required which must be made by a meeting of the members, the meeting must be adjourned.

(11.6) *Voting at general meetings*

(a) Any decision other than one falling within clause 10(3) (Decisions that must be taken in a particular way) shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast at the meeting. Every member has one vote.

(b) 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. A poll may be demanded by the chair or by at least 10% of the members present in person at the meeting.

(c) A poll demanded on the election of a person to chair the meeting or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately. A poll on any other matter shall be taken, and the result of the poll shall be announced, in such manner as the chair of the meeting shall decide, provided that the poll must be taken, and the result of the poll announced, within 30 days of the demand for the poll.

(d) A poll may be taken:

(i) at the meeting at which it was demanded; or

(ii) at some other time and place specified by the chair.

(e) In the event of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chair of the meeting shall have a second, or casting vote.

(f) Any objection to the qualification of any voter must be raised at the meeting at which the vote is cast and the decision of the chair of the meeting shall be final.

(11.7) *Adjournment of meetings*

The chair may with the consent of a meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn the meeting to another time and/or place. No business may be transacted at an adjourned meeting except business which could properly have been transacted at the original meeting.

**12. LEP trustees**

(12.1) *Functions and duties of LEP trustees*

The LEP trustees shall manage the affairs of the LEP and may for that purpose exercise all the powers of the LEP.

In appointing LEP trustees due consideration should be given to ensuring that there are LEP trustees appointed from amongst the members of each of the Participating Churches.

It is the duty of each LEP trustee:

(a) to exercise his or her powers and to perform his or her functions as an LEP trustee of the LEP in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the LEP; and

(b) to exercise, in the performance of those functions, such care and skill as is reasonable in the circumstances having regard in particular to:

(i) any special knowledge or experience that he or she has or holds himself or herself out as having; and

(ii) if he or she acts as an LEP trustee of the LEP in the course of a business or profession, to any special knowledge or experience that it is reasonable to expect of a person acting in the course of that kind of business or profession.

(12.2) *Eligibility for trusteeship*

(a) Every LEP trustee must be a natural person.

(b) No one may be appointed as an LEP trustee if he or she:

(i) is under the age of 16 years;

(ii) would automatically cease to hold office under the provisions of clause 15(1)(f);

(iii) is not a member of the LEP

(c) Only a person whose name is entered on the register of members of the LEP may be elected as an elected trustee or appointed as an appointed trustee.

(d) No one is entitled to act as an LEP trustee whether on appointment or on any re-appointment until he or she has expressly acknowledged, in whatever way the LEP trustees decide, his or her acceptance of the office of LEP trustee.

(e) At least one of the LEP trustees of the LEP must be 18 years of age or over. If there is no LEP trustee aged at least 18 years, the remaining LEP trustee or LEP trustees may act only to call a meeting of the LEP trustees or appoint a new LEP trustee.

(12.3) *Number of LEP trustees*

(a) There must be:

Not less than **four** nor more than **twelve** elected trustees;

Ex officio trustees;

**Deleted.**

(b) There must be at least three LEP trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining LEP trustee or LEP trustees may act only to call a meeting of the LEP trustees or appoint a new LEP trustee.

(c) The maximum number of elected trustees that can be appointed is as provided in sub-clause (a) of this clause. No LEP trustee appointment of elected trustees may be made in excess of these provisions.

(d) **Deleted.**

(12.4) *First LEP trustees*

The first LEP trustees of the LEP are:

*[Specify here which category of LEP trustee each of the first LEP trustees are and when, except for ex-officio trustees, their term of office will end.]*

<b>Name of LEP Trustee</b>	<b>Category of Trustee</b>	<b>Date of end of term of service</b>
Karen Adams	Elected	March 2029
Susan Adams	Elected	March 2029
Eric Bremner	Elected	March 2029
Debbie Brown	Ex officio	
John Butler	Elected	March 2029
Nicholas Leonard	Elected	March 2029
Stephen Powell	Elected	March 2029
Denise Ree	Elected	March 2029
Muriel Young	Elected	March 2029

### **13. Appointment of LEP trustees**

#### **(13.1) Elected LEP trustees**

(a) Subject to clause 12.4, elected trustees are elected by the members of the LEP at a general meeting in accordance with clause 13.1(b) or clause 13.1(c).

No-one may be elected a trustee at any general meeting unless prior to the meeting the members are given a notice that:

- (i) is signed by a member entitled to vote at the meeting;
- (ii) states the member's intention to propose the appointment of a person as a trustee;
- (iii) is signed by the person who is to be proposed to show his or her willingness to be appointed.

(b) Elected trustees shall hold office from the end of the AGM at which they are elected until the end of the third such meeting after their appointment, but shall be eligible for re-election at that meeting, subject to the limits specified in clause 16 (Reappointment of LEP trustees).

(c) The members may at any time decide at a general meeting to appoint a new elected trustee, whether in place of an LEP trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause 15 (Retirement and removal of LEP trustees), or as an additional LEP trustee and shall, on such appointment, specify the term of office of that elected trustee, provided always that the limit specified in clause 12(3) on the number of LEP trustees would not as a result be exceeded.

#### **(13.2) Ex officio LEP trustees**

Every Appointed Minister of the LEP duly appointed by one or more of the Participating Denominations to the LEP shall automatically, by virtue of holding that office, be an LEP trustee.

#### **(13.3) Deleted**

**Deleted**

### **14. Information for new LEP trustees**

The LEP trustees will make available to each new LEP trustee, on or before his or her first appointment:

- (a) a copy of this constitution and any amendments made to it; and
- (b) a copy of the LEP's latest LEP trustees' annual report and statement of accounts.

### **15. Retirement and removal of LEP trustees**

#### **(15.1) An LEP trustee ceases to hold office if he or she:**

(a) retires by notifying the LEP in writing (but only if enough LEP trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect to form a quorum for meetings);

(b) is absent without the permission of the LEP trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six consecutive months and the LEP trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;

(c) dies;

(d) ceases to be a member of the LEP in accordance with clause 9;

(e) in the written opinion, given to the LEP, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a trustee and may remain so for more than three months;

(f) is removed by the members of the LEP in accordance with sub-clause (2) of this clause; or

(g) is disqualified from acting as an LEP trustee by virtue of section 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).

(15.2) An LEP trustee shall be removed from office if a resolution to remove that LEP trustee is proposed at a general meeting of the members called for that purpose and properly convened in accordance with clause 11, and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the meeting.

(15.3) A resolution to remove an LEP trustee in accordance with this clause shall not take effect unless the individual concerned has been given at least 14 clear days' notice in writing that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify removal from office, and has been given a reasonable opportunity of making oral and/or written representations to the members of the LEP.

## **16. Reappointment of LEP trustees**

An LEP trustee who has served for three consecutive terms must not be reappointed for a fourth consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of at least one year.

## **17. Taking of decisions by LEP trustees**

Any decision may be taken either:

(a) at a meeting of the LEP trustees; or

(b) by resolution in writing or electronic form agreed by all of the LEP trustees, which may comprise either a single document or several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of which one or more LEP trustees has signified their agreement.

## **18. Delegation by LEP trustees**

(18.1) The LEP trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee or committees, and, if they do, they must determine the terms and conditions on which the delegation is made. The LEP trustees may at any time alter those terms and conditions, or revoke the delegation.

(18.2) This power is in addition to the power of delegation in the General Regulations and any other power of delegation available to the LEP trustees, but is subject to the following requirements -

(a) a committee may consist of two or more persons, but at least one member of each committee must be an LEP trustee;

(b) the acts and proceedings of any committee must be brought to the attention of the LEP trustees as a whole as soon as is reasonably practicable; and

(c) the LEP trustees shall from time to time review the arrangements which they have made for the delegation of their powers.

## **19. Meetings and proceedings of LEP trustees**

### **(19.1) *Calling meetings***

(a) Any LEP trustee may request a meeting of the trustees and the secretary must convene a meeting of the LEP trustees if requested to do so by an LEP trustee.

(b) Subject to that, the LEP trustees shall decide how their meetings are to be called, and what notice is required.

### **(19.2) *Chairing of meetings***

The LEP trustees may appoint one of their number to chair their meetings and may at any time revoke such appointment. If no-one has been so appointed, or if the person appointed is unwilling to preside or is not present within 10 minutes after the time of the meeting, the LEP trustees present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.

### **(19.3) *Procedure at meetings***

(a) At their first meeting after an AGM and as and when necessary, the LEP trustees shall elect the following officers from amongst their number:

- (i) A secretary; and
- (ii) A treasurer

such appointments to be for a term of office expiring at the end of the first meeting of the LEP trustees which is held after the next AGM after they are appointed.

(a) No decision shall be taken at a meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the decision is taken. The quorum is two LEP trustees, or the number nearest to one third of the total number of LEP trustees, whichever is greater, or such larger number as the LEP trustees may decide from time to time. An LEP trustee shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which he or she is not entitled to vote.

(b) Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of those eligible to vote.

(c) In the case of an equality of votes, the chair shall have a second or casting vote.

### **(19.4) *Participation in meetings by electronic means***

(a) A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the LEP trustees in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.

(b) Any LEP trustee participating at a meeting by suitable electronic means agreed by the LEP trustees in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants shall qualify as being present at the meeting.

(c) Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including chairing and the taking of minutes.

## **20. Saving provisions**

(20.1) Subject to sub-clause (2) of this clause, all decisions of the LEP trustees, or of a committee of LEP trustees, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of an LEP trustee:

(a) who was disqualified from holding office;

(b) who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office; or

(c) who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interest or otherwise

(d) for whom there is a technical defect in their appointment as a trustee of which the trustees were unaware at the time;

if, without the vote of that LEP trustee and that LEP trustee being counted in the quorum, the decision has been made by a majority of the LEP trustees at a quorate meeting.

(20.2) Sub-clause (1) of this clause does not permit an LEP trustee to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the LEP trustees or of a committee of LEP trustees if, but for clause (1), the resolution would have been void, or if the LEP trustee has not complied with clause 7 (Conflicts of interest).

## **21. Execution of documents**

(21.1) The LEP shall execute documents by signature. A document is validly executed by signature if it is signed by at least two of the LEP trustees.

## **22. Use of electronic communications**

(22.1) *General*

The LEP will comply with the requirements of the Communications Provisions in the General Regulations and in particular:

(a) the requirement to provide within 21 days to any member on request a hard copy of any document or information sent to the member otherwise than in hard copy form;

(b) any requirements to provide information to the Commission in a particular form or manner.

(22.2) *To the LEP*

Any member or LEP trustee of the LEP may communicate electronically with the LEP to an address specified by the LEP for the purpose, so long as the communication is authenticated in a manner which is satisfactory to the LEP.

(22.3) *By the LEP*

- (a) Any member or LEP trustee of the LEP, by providing the LEP with his or her email address or similar, is taken to have agreed to receive communications from the LEP in electronic form at that address, unless the member has indicated to the LEP his or her unwillingness to receive such communications in that form.
- (b) The LEP trustees may, subject to compliance with any legal requirements, by means of publication on its website –
  - (i) provide the members with the notice referred to in clause 11(3) (Notice of general meetings);
  - (ii) give LEP trustees notice of their meetings in accordance with clause 19(1) (Calling meetings); and
  - (iii) submit any proposal to the members or LEP trustees for decision
- (c) The LEP trustees must:
  - (i) take reasonable steps to ensure that members and LEP trustees are promptly notified of the publication of any such notice or proposal;
  - (ii) send any such notice or proposal in hard copy form to any member or LEP trustee who has not consented to receive communications in electronic form.

### **23. Keeping of Registers**

The LEP must comply with its obligations under the General Regulations in relation to the keeping of, and provision of access to, registers of its members and LEP trustees. The register of members must also include denominational affiliation.

### **24. Minutes**

The LEP trustees must keep minutes of all:

- (24.1) appointments of officers made by the LEP trustees;
- (24.2) proceedings at general meetings of the LEP;
- (24.3) meetings of the LEP trustees and committees of LEP trustees including:
  - (i) the names of the LEP trustees present at the meeting;
  - (ii) the decisions made at the meetings; and
  - (iii) where appropriate the reasons for the decisions; and
- (24.4) decisions made by the LEP trustees otherwise than in meetings.

### **25. Accounting records, accounts, annual reports and returns, register maintenance**

- (25.1) The LEP trustees must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, to the preparation and scrutiny of statements of accounts, and to

the preparation of annual reports and returns. The statements of accounts, reports and returns must be sent to the Charity Commission, regardless of the income of the LEP, within 10 months of the financial year end.

- (25.2) The LEP trustees must comply with their obligation to inform the Commission within 28 days of any change in the particulars of the LEP entered on the Central Register of Charities.

## **26. Rules**

The members of the LEP may from time to time make such reasonable and proper rules or bye laws as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of the LEP, but such rules or bye laws must not be inconsistent with any provision of this constitution or the Partnership Agreement and must be approved by the Relevant Authority of each Participating Denomination. Copies of any such rules or bye laws currently in force must be made available to any member of the LEP on request.

## **27. Disputes**

If a dispute arises between members of the LEP about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members under this constitution, and the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement, the parties to the dispute must first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation by a process agreed by the Relevant Authorities of the Participating Churches before resorting to litigation.

## **28. Amendment of constitution**

As provided by clauses 224-227 of the Charities Act 2011:

- (28.1) This constitution can only be amended by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of votes cast at a general meeting of the members of the LEP and with the prior written approval of the Relevant Authority of each of the Participating Denominations.
- (28.2) Any alteration of the LEP's objects, of any provision of the LEP's constitution directing the application of property on its dissolution or any provision of the LEP's constitution where the alteration would provide authorisation for any benefit to be obtained by LEP trustees or members of the LEP or persons connected with them, requires the prior written consent of the Charity Commission.
- (28.3) No amendment that is inconsistent with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011 or the General Regulations shall be valid.
- (28.4) A copy of any resolution altering the constitution, together with a copy of the LEP's constitution as amended, must be sent to the Commission within 15 days from the date on which the resolution is passed.

## **29. Voluntary winding up or dissolution**

- (29.1) The LEP may be dissolved only with the prior written approval of the Relevant Authority of each of the Participating Denominations. As provided by the Dissolution Regulations, the LEP may be dissolved by resolution of its members. Any decision by the members to wind up or dissolve the LEP can only be made at a general meeting of the members of the LEP called in accordance with clause 11 (Meetings of Members), of which not less than 14 days' notice has been given to those eligible to attend and vote by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of those voting.

- (29.2) Subject to the payment of all the LEP's debts, and with the prior written approval of the Relevant Authority for each Participating Denomination:
- (a) any resolution for the winding up of the LEP, or for the dissolution of the LEP without winding up, may contain a provision directing how any remaining assets of the LEP shall be applied;
  - (b) if the resolution does not contain such a provision, the LEP trustees must decide how any remaining assets of the LEP shall be applied; and
  - (c) in either case the remaining assets must be applied for charitable purposes the same as or similar to those of the LEP.
- (29.3) The LEP must observe the requirements of the Dissolution Regulations in applying to the Commission for the LEP to be removed from the Register of Charities, and in particular:
- (a) the LEP trustees must send with their application to the Commission:
    - (i) a copy of the resolution passed by the members of the LEP;
    - (ii) a declaration by the LEP trustees that any debts and other liabilities of the LEP have been settled or otherwise provided for in full; and
    - (iii) a statement by the LEP trustees setting out the way in which any property of the LEP has been or is to be applied prior to its dissolution in accordance with this constitution;
  - (b) the LEP trustees must ensure that a copy of the application is sent within seven days to every member and employee of the LEP, and to any LEP trustee of the LEP who was not privy to the application.
- (29.4) If the LEP is to be wound up or dissolved in any other circumstances, the provisions of the Dissolution Regulations must be followed.

### **30. Withdrawal**

- (30.1) A Participating Denomination may withdraw from the LEP. Should the withdrawal of one or more Participating Denomination leave only one remaining Participating Denomination in the LEP, that will cause the dissolution of the LEP and the procedures specified at 29 shall be followed.
- (30.2) A Participating Denomination may withdraw from the LEP when this does not cause the dissolution of the LEP. In order to withdraw from the LEP a Participating Denomination must notify in writing:
- (i) the Relevant Authority for each Participating Denomination; and
  - (ii) the LEP trustees.
- 30.3 For a period of three calendar months following the issue of the notifications specified at 30.2 (the "**Withdrawal Period**"), discussions on the orderly withdrawal shall take place between the Participating Denominations and/or Participating Churches, including in relation to any financial matters.
- 30.4 The Withdrawal Period may be extended for a period of up to **three** additional months by written agreement of all the Participating Denominations.

30.5 Subject to 30.6 below, at the end of the Withdrawal Period, or of any extension to the Withdrawal Period agreed in accordance with 30.4 above, the Participating Denomination that issued notifications of withdrawal in accordance with 30.2 shall automatically cease to be a Participating Denomination and any Participating Churches from that Participating Denomination shall automatically cease to be Participating Churches from that date.

30.6 If, at any point during the Withdrawal Period (including any extension agreed thereto pursuant to 30.4), the Participating Denomination that issued notifications of withdrawal in accordance with 30.2 decides it no longer wishes to withdraw, that Participating Denomination shall notify in writing:

(i) the Relevant Authority for each Participating Denomination; and

(ii) the LEP trustees;

and the withdrawal process under this clause shall automatically be terminated.

30.7 Within 15 days of the date on which a Participating Denomination withdraws in accordance with 30.5, a copy of the revised constitution shall be sent to the Charity Commission.

### **31. Interpretation**

In this constitution:

“Appointed Minister” means any minister of the LEP duly appointed by one or more of the Participating Denominations to the LEP

“Area of Benefit” means **the city of Coventry and adjacent areas.**

“the Communications Provisions” means the Communications Provisions in Part 9 of the General Regulations.

“connected person” means:

(a) a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the LEP trustee or member;

(b) the spouse or civil partner of the LEP trustee, member or of any person falling within sub-clause (a) above;

(c) a person carrying on business in partnership with the LEP trustee, member or with any person falling within sub-clause (a) or (b) above;

(d) an institution which is controlled –

(i) by the LEP trustee, member or any connected person falling within sub-clause (a), (b), or (c) above; or

(ii) by two or more persons falling within sub-clause (d)(i), when taken together

(e) a body corporate in which –

- (i) the LEP trustee, member or any connected person falling within sub-clauses (a) to (c) has a substantial interest; or
- (ii) two or more persons falling within sub-clause (e)(i) who, when taken together, have a substantial interest.

“the Dissolution Regulations” means the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (Insolvency and Dissolution) Regulations 2012.

“the General Regulations” means the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012.

“LEP trustee” means a charity trustee of the LEP.

“the Partnership Agreement” means the agreement of that name dated 25/03/2026 that relates to the LEP (as amended from time to time) that includes, without limitation, the doctrines, practices and traditions in accordance with which the LEP shall carry out the celebration of public worship;

“the Participating Denominations” means **the Baptist Union of Great Britain** and **the United Reformed Church**

“the Participating Churches” means **Hearsall Baptist Church** and **Holyhead Road United Reformed Church**

“poll” means a counted vote or ballot, usually (but not necessarily) in writing.

“Relevant Authority” is the denominational body which gives permission for the congregation to be part of the LEP. In the case of:

- Deleted
- Deleted
- **Holyhead Road United Reformed Church, the West Midlands Synod**
- **Hearsall Baptist Church, the authority of a decision of the Hearsall Baptist Church Members’ Meeting, ratified by the Faith and Society Team of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.**
- Deleted

In this constitution:

For the purposes of land disposals under section 117 Charities Act 2011 the definition of connected person set out in section 118 Charities Act 2011 applies for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this constitution.

For the purposes of the remuneration of trustees or connected persons of trustees providing goods and services under section 185 Charities Act 2011 the definition of connected person set out in section 188 Charities Act 2011 applies for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this constitution.

For the purposes of amending the constitution if any alteration would provide authorisation for any benefit for the trustees or members of the CIO or persons connected with them the definition of connected person set out in section 249 Charities Act 2011 applies for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this constitution.

For the purposes of an amalgamation application the definition of connected person set out in section 249 Charities Act 2011 applies for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this constitution.

For the purposes of confirming a resolution of a transferor CIO the definition of connected person set out in section 249 Charities Act 2011 applies for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this constitution.