***Churches Together in Windsor***

***Constitution***

*(as approved by the Annual Assembly on 12 November 2003)*

1. The Body, formerly known as “Windsor Christian Council of Churches” (until 23rd May 1991) shall be known as “Churches Together in Windsor”.

2. **Basis and Commitment**

Churches Together in Windsor unites in pilgrimage those Churches which, acknowledging God’s revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures; and, obedient 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, and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

3. **Aims and Functions**

Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed for his disciples, and thus for the Church, in these words: “that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are one in Me and I am one in You. May they also be one in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.” (John 17 vv 21-22) To help us answer that prayer, we recognise that we need to:

a. encourage the local churches to work together wherever and whenever possible;

b. worship and pray together;

c. learn more about the Christian faith together;

d. co-ordinate resources for Christian evangelism and service to the Windsor community as they arise;

e. keep each church informed of the work and developments in the churches of CTW;

f. promote and support the ecumenical movement[[1]](#footnote-1).

4. **Association**

Churches Together in Windsor seeks to network with other organisations that support its aims and functions.[[2]](#footnote-2)

5. **Membership**

Churches Together in Windsor shall be open to all worshipping congregations who agree with this constitution.

6. **Structure**

The continuing business of Churches Together in Windsor shall be conducted by a Core Group, consisting of the elected Officers and up to four other members.

7. **Annual Assembly**

An Annual Assembly shall be held each year, convened and organised by the Core Group. All members of member congregations shall be entitled to attend. The purpose of the Annual Assembly will include:

a. the Annual General Meeting;

b. the presentation by the Chair of an Annual Report on the activities of Churches Together in Windsor;

c. the presentation by the Treasurer of the Audited Accounts and Financial Report;

d. the election by members of membership of the Core Group (not less than 5) for the ensuing year;

e. such other business or activity as may be considered appropriate.

8. **Meetings**

a. The Core Group shall meet on at least four occasions in any one year in addition to the Annual Assembly.

b. Each member congregation shall be invited to nominate a Link person.

c. Business at the Annual Assembly shall be determined by a simple majority of members present, and the Chairperson shall have a casting vote after a second vote.

d. Agendas for the Annual Assembly shall be circulated, seven days prior to the meeting, to all Churches, including Link persons, to the last notified name and address.

e. The Officers of Churches Together in Windsor shall be Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, and any other Officer as may be agreed, elected by and from within the member congregations at the Annual General Meeting.

f. The Core Group shall ensure that the decisions of the Annual Assembly are executed.

g. The Core Group shall be empowered to carry on all the business of Churches Together in Windsor between Annual Assemblies or other General Meetings.

h. The Core Group shall have the power to co-opt other members and to convene other sub-groups as it may consider necessary from time to time, to carry out its work.[[3]](#footnote-3)

9. **Finances**

a. Each member congregation shall contribute annually such a sum as shall be agreed by the Annual Assembly to finance the work of Churches Together in Windsor. The Core Group shall have the power to hold and disburse such monies on behalf of Churches Together in Windsor.

b. Churches Together in Windsor may organise fund raising as necessary in order to achieve its *Aims and Functions*.

c. Churches Together in Windsor may raise, hold, and disburse monies for charitable purposes.[[4]](#footnote-4)

10. **Amendments**

The Core Group and any Member Congregation of Churches Together in Windsor shall have the right to propose amendments to the Constitution at the Annual General Meeting, or at a General Meeting for that purpose, provided that notice of the intention and a copy of the proposed amendment is given to the Secretary in writing, and the Secretary shall notify the same in writing to all member Churches at least two calendar months before the meeting at which it is to be considered.

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***A Pledge***

*(adopted by the Annual Assembly June 1996)*

We believe the eventual unity of Christ’s Church will be furthered by pledging ourselves to each other in the following ways:

* to worship together regularly
* to learn and value the spiritual traditions of each Church
* to explore our beliefs and their practical implications
* to support each other in deepening and renewing our faith for the enrichment of the life of the church and of the individual believer
* to work as a team caring for the community
* to co-operate in Christian mission, evangelism, education and training.
1. This could include enabling Member Churches to develop mutual relationships, find common ground, work together to build God's Kingdom, live and share the Gospel, evangelise together, take further steps towards fuller unity, respond to the needs of society and witness to the Gospel together, and reflect together on the nature and purpose of the Church in the light of its mission – each church sharing with others the treasures of its tradition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This could included, for example, Windsor Christian Action [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For example, organising Carols on the Hill or the ecumenical Pentecost Service [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. In line with current best practice, for example, having at least two signatories for cheques from among the officers of the Core Group; having accounts audited by an independent auditor etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)