

BELIEVE IN HULL

CONSTITUTION FOR CHURCHES TOGETHER IN GREATER HULL

1. BASIS¹

Believe in Hull (Churches Together in Greater Hull) unites in pilgrimage those Churches in Greater Hull which, acknowledging God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience 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 the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

2. AIMS

The aims of Believe in Hull shall be:

- a. to enable the Churches, as pilgrims together, to explore the Christian faith together, to develop mutual relationships, to seek a common mind, and to make decisions together;
- b. to encourage Churches to worship, pray 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;
- c. to enable the Churches to live and share the Gospel, to evangelise together and to take further steps towards fuller unity;
- d. to enable the Churches to respond to the needs of society and to witness to the Gospel together.

3. AREA

Believe in Hull aims to serve Hull and the surrounding area.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of Believe in Hull shall be open to:

- a. any local church in the area which is affiliated to a Church or association of Churches which is a full member of Churches Together in England² and
- b. any other local Church in the area which affirms the Basis and commits itself to promote the aims of Believe in Hull and

¹ This is the 'standard', tried and tested, basis which we think is acceptable should CTGH at any point wish to become a registered charity. However, please note that a more structured constitution is needed for charity registration.

² Current members of Churches Together in England (CTE) can be found [here](#) and the procedure for joining CTE [here](#).

- c. any local Church which on principle has no credal statements in its tradition and therefore cannot formally subscribe to the statement of faith in the Basis, provided that it satisfies 75% in number of those Member Churches which subscribe to the Basis, that it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and it is committed to the aims and purposes of Believe in Hull and that it will work in the spirit of the Basis.³

New applications for membership require the nomination of two existing members of Believe in Hull and require the approval of 75% of existing members. Members must be given 28 days in which to respond to a nomination.

5. THE LEADERS' GROUP

- a. Members of the Leaders' Group shall consist of one representative from each Member Church, usually the Church Leader (or someone appointed by him/her) or the minister.
- b. The Leaders' Group may co-opt others; such co-options not exceeding 25% of the total number of representatives appointed by the Member Churches. Co-opted members should serve for an initial period of three years and may be re-appointed if willing to serve for one further period not exceeding three years.⁴
- c. The Leaders' Group may invite others to attend on specific occasions.
- d. The Leaders' Group shall normally be convened at least three times a year.
- e. The convenor shall be appointed by the Leaders' Group for an initial period of one year and may be re-appointed if willing to serve for further periods.

6. ENABLING GROUP

- a. When there are more than ten⁵ Churches in membership of Believe in Hull the Leaders' Group may appoint an Enabling Group whose functions shall be to enable the Member Churches to make decisions in common and to serve as a reference point for the Leaders' Group.
- b. The Enabling Group shall consist of the convenor of the Leaders' Group and up to six members of the Leaders' Group.

7. CONSTITUTION

The constitution and any subsequent amendment to it requires 28 days notice to members of the Leaders' Group and the approval of 75% of the Member Churches, acting either through their representative at the Leaders' Group or through their normal decision-making bodies.

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³ Upon its inauguration Churches Together in England welcomed the Religious Society of Friends under this clause.

⁴ The limit for co-opted members ensures a turnover of people. This limit does not apply to members of the Leaders' Group or to its convenor (#a and #e of this section). The term for the convenor gives him/her or the members a natural point at which to do something different if they so wish.

⁵ This section allows for growth. The Enabling Group is not compulsory, simply an option.