Churches Together in Harborough Constitution

1. BASIS

Churches Together in Harborough unites those churches in the Market Harborough area 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. OBJECTIVES

2.1 To be a visible sign of the churches' commitment to one another.

2.2 To facilitate common witness to Christ.

2.3 To respond to the needs of the community in shared service and outreach where this is possible.

3. RELATIONSHIPS

Churches Together in Harborough will be associated with Churches Together in England through Churches Together in Leicestershire.

4. FULL MEMBERSHIP

Membership of Churches Together in Harborough shall be open to any denomination or association of churches which is represented in the area, and which is a member of Churches Together in England or affirms the Basis and Objectives of Churches Together in Harborough and satisfies 75% of the representatives at the Forum to Churches Together in Harborough who are present and voting.

5. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Associate Membership of Churches Together in Harborough shall be open to any church or any organisation or Christian ministry associated with church or churches in and beyond the area which:

5.1 accept the Basis and Objectives as set out in this constitution.

5.2 wishes to keep in touch with the work of Churches Together in Harborough and to participate in its activities.

5.3 whose membership is subject to approval by the Executive and approved by the Forum.

6. FORUM

6.1 Member churches shall be represented by their church leader(s) and in addition:

- for churches up to 100 members, 2 lay representatives
- for churches over 100 members, 3 lay representatives

6.2 Each associate member shall be represented by two members, who may attend meetings of the Forum and contribute to the discussion but shall not be entitled to vote.

6.3 There may be not more than six co-opted individual members.

NOTE: Member churches should ensure that representatives are empowered by their individual church bodies, to participate in the decisions of the Forum meeting, on the basis of the previously circulated agenda.

7. MEETINGS

The Forum shall meet not less than four times annually. The May meeting in each year shall be the Annual General Meeting at which the accounts shall be presented, officers elected, and annual reports given.

8. OFFICERS

The Executive officers of Churches Together in Harborough shall be a Chair and Vice-Chair, an Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Secretary, and an Honorary Communications Officer. All officers are elected annually. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall not normally hold office for more than two consecutive years.

9. WORKING PARTY

The Forum may appoint a Team Leader to head up a Working Party for a specific project, setting appropriate budgets, timescales and reporting mechanisms. The Working Party should carry out / implement the delegated task from the Forum, working within the defined parameters given. The appointed Team Leader should be responsible to the Forum for reporting back on task progress.

10. FINANCE

Each member church and each associate member shall pay such annual sum to Churches Together in Harborough as shall be agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

11. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

Churches Together in Harborough shall have the power to amend the constitution, but the representatives of any church shall have the right to require that any proposed amendment be submitted to the member churches. Any amendment requires the approval of at least 75% of the member churches.

12. REVIEW

It is intended that Churches Together in Harborough shall reflect the developing life of the Christian Churches as they continue their pilgrimage together. Every five years a Review Group shall be appointed by the member churches, in consultation with the County Sponsoring Body, to report on the progress of the pilgrimage and to make proposals for desirable changes.

CTH Review Group, October 2021