

CONCORD (LEEDS INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP)

CONSTITUTION (Revised 2017)

A. NAME

The association shall be called "Concord (Leeds Interfaith Fellowship)". (Hereinafter called "The Association")

B. PURPOSE

The Association will be a group of people of different faiths established to promote charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in and around the City of Leeds Metropolitan District. (Hereinafter called "The Area of Benefit").

C. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To advance public knowledge and mutual understanding of the teachings, traditions and practices of the different faith communities in the Leeds Metropolitan District, and to nurture respect and friendly relations by facilitating interfaith dialogue and organising educational and cultural events.
- To promote and to work for justice, peace and social harmony for the public benefit in the multi-cultural Leeds Metropolitan District by advocacy, by focused public events and projects, and by co-operating with other organisations that have similar objectives.

D. POWERS

In accordance with its charitable purposes, and in furtherance of its aims and objectives, the Association may raise funds and receive contributions from any persons by way of donations from the public, or subscriptions from members (see MEMBERSHIP, Clause E) provided that the Association shall not undertake any permanent trading activities. The Association may employ staff as may be required to carry out the purposes of the Association.

The Association may award grants (which shall normally be from its annual surplus income) to individuals or groups for educational purposes that are consistent with the Association's aims and objectives and charitable status. Applications for such grants must be made in writing by the person(s) requiring the grant, and must include:

- the amount requested;
- a statement of the reasons for the request and how it will help to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Association;
- information about any other sources of funding available or to which application has been made.

Applications for grants shall be circulated to members of the Executive Committee at least one week before the meeting of the Executive Committee at which they are to be discussed, and the advice of the Treasurer regarding the Association's current financial status shall be sought. The Executive Committee may, with the approval of a majority of its members present, authorise the payment of all or part of the grant requested, as the Association's funds permit.

E. MEMBERSHIP

Membership with voting rights will be open to those individuals who fulfil the following requirements:

1. Reside or work in or near the Area of Benefit
2. Agree with the aims of the Association
3. Pay the annual subscription or are Honorary Members.

Subscriptions will be due from 1st April in each financial year.

Only members with voting rights shall be eligible for appointment as officers of the Association or as members of the Executive.

F. OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE

The principal officers of the Association shall be:

Chairperson; Secretary; Treasurer; and Membership Secretary. Other officers may be appointed as necessary. Offices may be shared by two or more persons, and one person may hold more than one office.

1. Officers

The principal officers shall be of 18 years of age or older and elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. Other officers shall be appointed by the Executive.

2. Executive

The Executive Committee shall consist of

- (i) the officers specified in the preceding clauses;
- (ii) not more than six other members of the Association elected at the Annual General Meeting who shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting;
- (iii) up to ten members broadly representative of the faith composition of the Association, and chosen for their commitment to the objects of the Association and willingness to engage actively in its work, whose appointment shall be approved by the Annual General Meeting or the Executive Committee and subject to annual review by the Executive Committee.

3. Casual Vacancies

Any vacancies arising and any newly created office may be filled by a decision of the Executive Committee, such decisions to be effective until the next Annual General Meeting.

4. Co-options

The Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt further persons to enable the Committee to reflect the various religious persuasions of the Area of Benefit.

5. SubCommittees

The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint SubCommittees as deemed necessary, and may determine their terms of reference, powers and duration.

All acts and proceedings of such SubCommittees shall be reported back, as soon as possible.

G. MEETINGS

The Association shall hold regular open meetings and events of varied types, such as will command the general support of members.

The Annual General Meeting, at which accounts shall be presented, reports submitted and at which Officers, Executive Committee members and an Independent Examiner of the Accounts shall be elected, shall be held not later than 15 months after the preceding Annual General Meeting.

There shall be a quorum when at least one tenth of the number of members of the charity for the time being or ten members of the charity, whichever is the greater, are present at any general meeting.

The Executive Committee shall be required to record minutes of its meetings. There shall be a quorum when at least one third of the numbers of the Executive Committee for the time being or three members of the Executive Committee, whichever is the greater, are present at the meeting.

The Executive Committee shall plan and determine the procedure for meetings, conferences and other group activities in accordance with the wishes of members, and in furtherance of the aims of the Association. They shall bring to the membership all major decisions and changes, but otherwise have power to initiate and put into operation such activities as fall within the Aims and Objectives of the Association

H. FINANCE

The financial year shall run from 1st April to 31st March. The Treasurer shall present a Report and Statement of Accounts at the Annual General Meeting. These shall be prepared and examined in compliance with the Charities Act 1993.

Bank Accounts shall be opened in the name of the Association with such Banks as the members of the Executive Committee shall decide.

The members shall authorise four signatories for each Bank account, namely the Treasurer, Secretary and two other committee members. All cheques must be signed by not fewer than two out of four signatories.

I. TRUSTEES

- (1) Subject to the provisions of subclause (2) of this clause, the Executive Committee shall cause the title to:
 - (a) all land held by or in trust for the charity which is not vested in the Official Custodian for Charities; and
 - (b) all investments held by or on behalf of the charity to be vested either in a corporation entitled to act as custodian trustee or in not less than three individuals appointed by them as holding trustees. Holding trustees may be removed by the Executive Committee at their pleasure and shall act in accordance with the lawful directions of the Executive Committee. The holding trustees shall not be liable for the acts and defaults of its members.
- (2) If a corporation entitled to act as custodian trustee has not been appointed to hold the property of the charity, the Executive Committee may permit any investments held by or in trust for the charity to be held in the name of a clearing bank, trust corporation or any stockbroking company which is a member of the International Stock Exchange (or any subsidiary of any such stockbroking company) as nominee for the Executive Committee, and may pay such a nominee reasonable and proper remuneration for acting as such.

J. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this clause the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting. The notice of the general meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed. At least twenty-one days written notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to all members.
- (2) No amendment may be made to clause A (the name of charity clause), clause C (the aims clause), clause K (the dissolution clause) or this clause without prior consent in writing of the Commissioners.
- (3) No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the charity cease to be a charity at law.
- (4) The Executive Committee should promptly send to the Commission a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

K. DISSOLUTION

In the event of Dissolution, the assets of the Association shall be transferred to such other Charitable Institution(s) as having objects similar to those of the Association, and operating within the Area of Benefit.

The decision to dissolve the Association must be made by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the membership present and voting at a meeting specially called for that purpose. At least twenty-one days written notice for such a meeting must be given to all members.

L. INTERPRETATION

The Interpretation Act, 1978, applies for the Interpretation of this Constitution, as 'it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament'.