

Constitution, schedule and Appendices

NEWLAND CHURCH **Single Congregation** **Local Ecumenical** **Partnership**

adopted on 22nd October 2023



This Constitution was adopted on 6th August 2023 and relates to the charitable unincorporated association governed by this Constitution and known as NEWLAND CHURCH

This document is comprised of the Model Constitution and the Appendices:

- 1) Ecumenical Vision
- 2) Terminology
- 3) Partnership
- 4) Safeguarding
- 5) Trustees
- 6) Financial Procedures
- 7) Transitional arrangements

Introduction

- 1) In this Constitution (including the Schedule to it) the following expressions have the following meanings:
 - a) 'the Area of Benefit' means the area specified in paragraph 2 of the Schedule;
 - b) 'the Charity' means the charity constituted by this Constitution;
 - c) 'Congregational Meeting' means a meeting of the Members;
 - d) 'Co-opted Trustees' means Trustees appointed by the Trustees under clause 22(c);
 - e) 'Elected Trustees' means Trustees elected under clause 22(b);
 - f) 'the LEP' means the Local Ecumenical Partnership specified in paragraph 1 of the Schedule;
 - g) 'the Members' means the members of the Charity;
 - h) 'the Participating Churches' means the Churches specified in paragraph 4 of the Schedule;
 - i) 'the Participating Denominations' means the denominations specified in paragraph 3 of the Schedule;
 - j) 'the Schedule' means the Schedule to this Constitution;
 - k) 'the Sponsoring Body' means the body specified in paragraph 6 of the Schedule;
 - l) 'the Trustees' means the body of trustees constituted by clause 22 of this Constitution (who are the charity trustees of the Charity for the purposes of the Charities Act 1993).

Purpose of the Charity

2. The purpose of the Charity is to advance the Christian faith in the Area of Benefit in accordance with the principles and practices of the Participating Churches.
3. In achieving its purpose, the Charity will engage in a range of activities, either on its own or with others, including (but not restricted to):
 - a) the celebration of public worship;
 - b) the teaching of the Christian faith;
 - c) mission and evangelism;
 - d) pastoral work, including visiting the sick and the bereaved;
 - 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; and
 - f) the support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Membership of the Charity

4. The duly authorised ministers for the time being of the LEP (whether ordained or lay) are Members by virtue of their office.
5. Other persons shall be entitled to membership of the Charity if entitled to membership of the LEP in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule.
6. The Trustees must keep a register of Members, which must be made available to any Member upon request. The register must record the name, address and denominational affiliation within the LEP of each Member. (Due regard will be paid to GDPR or other updated legal

requirements.) (Newland Church will agree and make reference to how denominational affiliation of individual members will be determined.)

7. Membership of the Charity shall be terminated if the Member concerned:-
 - a) gives written notice of his or her resignation to the Trustees;
 - b) ceases to be entitled to membership of the LEP (including as a result of any disciplinary procedure conducted by one or more of the Participating Denominations conducted in accordance with paragraph 13 of the Schedule);
 - c) dies.
8. Membership of the Charity is personal and not transferable.

Congregational meetings

9. There shall be the following kinds of Congregational Meeting of the Charity:
 - a) Annual Congregational Meetings;
 - b) Ordinary Congregational Meetings;
 - c) Special Congregational Meetings; (Appendix 2)
10. Congregational Meetings shall be convened by or on behalf of the Trustees, either:
 - a) by giving 14 days' (or, in the case of a Special Congregational Meeting, 21 days') notice in writing sent to the addresses recorded for the Members (email addresses are deemed acceptable) in the register of Members; or
 - b) by giving verbal notice at each service of public worship held in the LEP on the two Sundays (or, in the case of a Special Congregational meeting, the three Sundays) immediately preceding the date of the Congregational Meeting.
11. An Annual Congregational Meeting must be held within 12 months of the adoption of this Constitution and once in every subsequent calendar year.
12. The business of an Annual Congregational Meeting is to:
 - a) receive the report of the Trustees on the Charity's activities since the previous Annual Congregational Meeting;
 - b) review the life and witness of the Charity;
 - c) elect Trustees from among the Members by processes that are clear and open;
 - d) receive the accounts of the Charity for the previous financial year;
 - e) appoint an auditor or independent examiner for the Charity; and
 - f) consider any other business put before it by the Trustees.
13. An Ordinary Congregational Meeting shall be convened on not less than three occasions in each calendar year.
14. The business of an Ordinary Congregational Meeting is to:
 - a) review the life and witness of the LEP;
 - b) consider topics relevant to the local and wider witness of the LEP;
 - c) receive reports covering all aspects of the life of the LEP;
 - d) consider matters brought to it by the Trustees, so as to offer advice or guidance (to which the Trustees must have regard), and to indicate support as required;
 - e) help to shape the life, work and vision of the LEP.
15. A Special Congregational Meeting may be called at any time by the Trustees and must be called by them within 21 days after receiving a written request from at least one-tenth of the Members for the time being.
16. In the case of a Special Congregational Meeting the notice of the meeting must include an indication of the business to be transacted.

17. The business of a Special Congregational Meeting shall comprise that referred to in the notice convening it and no other.
18. No business shall be conducted at any Congregational Meeting unless at least 10 or one fifth of the number of Members for the time being (if greater), are present. NEWLAND CHURCH may adopt transitional arrangements to ensure the interests of all of the previous congregations are heard and considered. (Appendix 7)
19. The chair of the Trustees or (if the chair is unable or unwilling to do so) some other Member elected by those present shall preside at any Congregational Meeting.
20. Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, or under transitional arrangements (see Appendix 5), every issue at a Congregational Meeting shall be determined by a simple majority of votes cast by the Members present and voting.
21. Except for the chair of the meeting, who in the case of an equality of votes has a second or casting vote, every Member present in person at any Congregational Meeting is entitled to one vote on every issue. (Appendix 7)

Trustees

22. The Charity shall be administered and managed by a body of Trustees consisting of:
 - a) *ex officio* Trustees, being the ministers of the LEP for the time being;
 - b) elected Trustees elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting, comprising at least eight and not more than twelve in number
 - c) not more than three Co-opted Trustees appointed by the Trustees. (Appendix 7)
23. The first Elected Trustees shall be elected at the meeting at which this Constitution is adopted.
24. Elected Trustees shall hold office from the end of the Annual Congregational Meeting 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. (Appendix 7)
25. No person may be elected as a Trustee unless he or she:
 - a) is a Member;
 - b) is aged 18 or above;
 - c) is not disqualified from acting as a Trustee by virtue of section 72 Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision); and
 - d) has indicated his or her willingness to serve as a Trustee.
26. Co-opted Trustees serve until the end of the next Annual Congregational Meeting following their appointment, and must be
 - a) Aged 18 or above
 - b) not disqualified from acting as a Trustee by virtue of section 72 Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision); and
 - c) have indicated his or her willingness to serve as a Trustee
27. A Trustee shall cease to hold office if he or she:
 - a) is disqualified from acting as a Trustee by virtue of section 72 Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);
 - b) ceases to be a Member;
 - c) dies or becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;
 - d) resigns as trustee by notice to the Trustees (but only if at least two Trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect); or
 - e) is absent without the permission of the Trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six consecutive months and the Trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated.

Proceedings of the Trustees

28. The Trustees may regulate their proceedings as they think fit, subject to the provisions of this constitution.
29. The Trustees must hold at least two meetings in each calendar year.
30. At their first meeting after an Annual Congregational Meeting the Trustees shall elect the following officers from amongst their number:
 - a) a chair;
 - b) a secretary; and
 - c) a treasurer. (All Elders will be Trustees unless deemed ineligible under clauses 25 and 27. The Treasurer will be a Trustee, elected or co-opted, but will not necessarily be an Elder.)
31. Any Trustee may request a meeting of the Trustees and the secretary must convene a meeting of the Trustees if requested to do so by a Trustee.
32. Questions arising at a meeting must be decided by a majority of votes. (Appendix 7)
33. In the case of an equality of votes, the person who chairs the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
34. No decision may be made by a meeting of the Trustees unless a quorum is present at the time the decision is purported to be made.
35. The quorum shall be either:
 - a) two or the number nearest to one third of the total number of Trustees, whichever is the greater; or
 - b) such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the Trustees.
36. A Trustee shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which that Trustee is not entitled to vote.
37. If the number of Trustees is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing Trustees or Trustee may act for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a Congregational Meeting but for no other purpose.
38. The person elected as the chair shall chair meetings of the Trustees.
39. If the chair is unable or unwilling to preside or is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the Trustees present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.
40. The person appointed to chair meetings of the Trustees shall have no functions or powers except those conferred by this Constitution or delegated to him or her in writing by the Trustees.
41. A resolution in writing signed by all the Trustees entitled to receive notice of a meeting of Trustees or of a committee of the Trustees and to vote upon the resolution shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Trustees or (as the case may be) a committee of Trustees duly convened and held.
42. The resolution in writing may comprise several documents, each containing the text of the resolution in like form and each signed by one or more Trustees.

43. The Trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee of two or more persons, all or a majority of whom shall be Trustees, subject to such conditions (if any) as they think fit. All acts and proceedings of any such committee must be reported promptly to the Trustees.
44. The Trustees must keep minutes of all:
- a) appointments of officers and Co-opted Trustees made by the Trustees;
 - b) proceedings at Congregational Meetings; and
 - c) meetings of the Trustees and committees of the Trustees, including:
 - I. the names of the Trustees or committee members present at the meeting;
 - II. the decisions made at the meeting; and
 - III. where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions.

Accounting and reporting

45. The Trustees must comply with their obligations under charity law with regard to:
- a) the keeping of accounting records for the Charity;
 - b) the preparation of annual statements of account for the Charity;
 - c) the transmission of the statements of account to the Charity; and
 - d) the preparation of an Annual Report and an Annual Return and their submission to the Charity Commission.

Powers of Trustees

46. In order to further the purpose of the Charity the Trustees may:
- a) raise funds, provided that in doing so the Trustees must not undertake any substantial permanent trading activity and must comply with any relevant statutory regulations;
 - b) apply for and accept grants and provide security in respect of obligations under grant agreements;
 - c) buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and maintain and equip it for use;
 - d) where the Charity owns property, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property, subject to such consents as are required by law;
 - e) borrow money and charge the whole or any part of the property belonging to the Charity as security for repayment of the money borrowed, subject to such consents as are required by law;
 - f) co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities and exchange information and advice with them;
 - g) establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any purpose connected with the purpose of the Charity;
 - h) acquire, merge with or enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other charity formed for any purpose connected with the purpose of the Charity subject to such consents as are required by law;
 - i) set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves;
 - j) obtain and pay for such goods and services as are necessary for carrying out the work of the Charity;
 - k) open and operate such bank and other accounts as the Trustees consider necessary and invest funds and delegate the management of funds 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; and
 - l) do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the purpose of the Charity.

It is understood that the main decision making body of NEWLAND CHURCH is the Congregational Meeting, but in all matters pertaining to the Powers of Trustees and their financial responsibilities, the Church meeting shall be requested to concur with the

recommendations of the Trustees. The Trustees shall at all times be guided by the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Application of funds

47. The Trustees shall pay out of the income and property of the Charity all the proper costs and expenses of administering the Charity.

Trustee benefits

48. No Trustee or any person connected with a Trustee may receive from the Charity any payment of money or other material benefit (whether direct or indirect) except by way of:
- a) reasonable remuneration or stipend paid to any Trustee who is a minister of the LEP;
 - b) reimbursement of reasonable out of pocket expenses (including hotel and travel costs) actually incurred in the administration of the Charity;
 - c) interest at a reasonable rate on money lent to the Charity;
 - d) a reasonable rent or hiring fee for property let or hired to the Charity;
 - e) an indemnity in respect of any liabilities properly incurred in or about the administration of the Charity (including the costs of a successful defence to criminal proceedings);
 - f) benefits received by the Trustee as a Member where such benefits are no different in nature or extent from those received by other Members; and
 - g) payment for employment or services authorised under clause 49.
49. The Trustees may employ, or engage under a contract for services, such of their number or any person connected to a Trustee as they may determine provided that:
- a) the procedure set out in clause 50 is followed;
 - b) the Trustees are satisfied that it is in the interests of the Charity to employ or engage under a contract for services (as the case may be) the Trustee or connected person concerned;
 - c) the Trustees are satisfied that the terms of employment or engagement are reasonable and will be subject to regular and objective review; and
 - d) at no time may a majority of Trustees benefit directly or indirectly from payments made under this clause.
50. Whenever a Trustee or a person connected to a Trustee has a personal interest in a matter to be discussed at a meeting of the Trustees or any committee, the Trustee or connected person concerned must:
- a) declare an interest before discussion on the matter begins;
 - b) withdraw from the meeting for that item unless expressly invited by the chair to remain solely in order to provide information;
 - c) not be counted in the quorum during that part of the meeting; and
 - d) withdraw during the vote and have no vote on the matter.
51. For the purpose of clauses 48 to 50 a person is connected with a Trustee if that person is, *inter alia*:
- a) a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the Trustee; or
 - b) a spouse, civil partner or co-habitee of the Trustee or of any person falling within (a) above.

Investment

52. Funds which are not required for immediate use must be placed on deposit or invested.
53. Investments and other property of the Charity may be held:
- a) in the names of the Trustees;
 - b) in the name of a nominee (being a corporate body registered or having an established place of business in England and Wales) under the control of the Trustees or of a financial expert acting on their instructions;

- c) in the name of a trust corporation as a holding trustee for the Charity which must be appointed (and may be removed) by deed executed by the Trustees; or
- d) in the case of land, by the Official Custodian for Charities under an order of the Charity Commission or the Court.

Amendment of Constitution

54. This Constitution (including the Schedule) may be amended at either an Annual or a Special Congregational Meeting provided that:
- a) No amendment may be made to this clause that would have the effect of making the Charity cease to be a charity at law or altering the purpose of the Charity if the change would not be within the reasonable contemplation of the Members;
 - b) Clauses 48 to 51 may not be amended without the prior written consent of the Charity Commission;
 - c) Members are given 21 days' notice and resolve by not less than two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting; and
 - d) the resolution receives the approval of the Sponsoring Body and of the appropriate authority of each of the Participating Denominations.
55. A copy of any resolution amending this Constitution must be sent to the Charity Commission within 21 days of its being passed.

Dissolution of Charity

56. The Charity may be dissolved only with the approval of the Sponsoring Body, and the appropriate authority of each of the Participating Denominations.
57. If the members resolve to dissolve the Charity the Trustees will remain in office as charity trustees and be responsible for winding up the affairs of the Charity in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
58. The Trustees must collect in all the assets of the Charity and must pay or make provision for all the liabilities of the Charity.
59. The Trustees must apply any remaining property or money:
- a) directly for the purpose of the Charity;
 - b) by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes the same as, or similar, to the purpose of the Charity; or
 - c) in such other manner as the Charity Commission may approve in writing in advance.
60. The Members may pass a resolution before or at the same time as the resolution to dissolve the Charity specifying the manner in which the Trustees are to apply the remaining property or assets of the Charity, in which event the Trustees must comply with the resolution if it is consistent with clause 60.
61. In no circumstances shall the net assets of the Charity be paid to or distributed among the members of the Charity.
62. The Trustees must notify the Charity Commission promptly that the Charity has been dissolved. If the Trustees are obliged to send the Charity's accounts to the Commission for the accounting period which ended before its dissolution, they must send the Charity Commission the Charity's final accounts. (End)

Schedule

The LEP

1. The Charity:
 - a) gives effect to the local ecumenical partnership NEWLAND CHURCH approved for the Area of Benefit by the Participating Church
 - b) comprises the Participating Church and
 - c) looks to the Sponsoring Body, namely the participating denominations, for support, encouragement and advice.

The Area of Benefit

2. The Area of Benefit is Luton and Dunstable and associated communities.

The Participating Churches

3. The Participating Denominations are:
 - a) The United Reformed Church
 - b) The Methodist Church
4. The Participating Church is: NEWLAND CHURCH
5. The Appropriate Authority for each Participating Church is:
 - a) The United Reformed Church
 - b) The Methodist Church

The Sponsoring Body

6. The Sponsoring Body is (see Appendix 2)

Christian Initiation and Belonging

7. Baptism shall be administered according to the rite and/or practice of any of the Participating Denominations, or according to a rite approved by the Participating Denominations through the Sponsoring Body, and shall be set, in normal circumstances, within an act of congregational worship. A register of baptisms shall be kept.
8. All persons involved as candidates or parents in baptism, whether of believers or infants, should proceed with the full knowledge of the options that are available to them. Infant Dedication and Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child shall be among such options, as shall be a service for the Re-Affirmation of Baptismal Vows, as appropriate.
9. Preparation for believer's baptism and for confirmation of vows and admission to the full responsibilities and privileges of membership of the LEP shall be undertaken jointly and shall include specific denominational teaching and instruction. Reception into membership of the LEP or a transfer and/or extension of membership shall normally be administered at an act of worship according to a rite authorised by the Sponsoring Body, and agreed by the presiding ministers.
10. Those received into membership of the LEP by admission to membership become members of the Participating Denominations, as well as members of the LEP.
11. Those received into membership of the LEP by transfer and extension of membership in consequence become members of the Participating Denominations which have received them, as well as members of the LEP.
12. Baptismal policy and practice shall be in line with the discipline of the Participating Denominations and Churches.

13. Membership discipline shall be in accordance with the procedures of the Participating Denominations. Members affiliated to more than one of the Participating Denominations shall be subject to the procedures of only one of them, as agreed by the Sponsoring Body and the appropriate authorities of the Participating Denominations on the proposal of the Trustees. Trustees will take account of any preference expressed by the member. The standing of any such member with the other Participating Denomination(s) to which they are affiliated shall be reviewed by them in the light of the outcome of that procedure.

Worship

14. The LEP shall respect the faith and practice of each of the Participating Denominations. Worship shall safeguard and present the doctrines, practices, traditions and developing traditions of each of the Participating Denominations and be conducted in accordance with denominational practices and/or using rites adopted by the Sponsoring Body. A balanced and varied pattern of worship shall be aimed for in order to maximise the riches of each tradition and to enable the congregation to explore and express its ecumenical life and aspiration, while at the same time ensuring that worship is accessible and sustaining for all its members. Ordained priests, ministers or other duly authorised persons shall preside at the Eucharist as permitted by the rules of the relevant Participating Denomination.
15. The authorisations of each Participating Denomination apply to that denomination's services.
16. All those recognised as communicants by the Participating Denominations may receive the sacrament. In arranging services encouragement shall be given to the participation of the whole congregation, especially Lay/Local Preachers, and others authorised as leaders of worship or as preachers.

Ministry

17. Authorised ministry within the LEP shall be provided by ministers (whether clergy or lay) duly appointed by the Participating Denominations, after consultation with the Sponsoring Body. (Appendix 2)
18. The procedures of the relevant Participating Denominations shall be followed in the appointment/call of ministers. Recognising, however, the importance of continuity, the LEP expects that those responsible for the appointment/call of ministers shall select persons who will respect and develop the ecumenical character of the LEP. To that end, when it is expected that a minister or member of the ministry team serving the LEP may leave, or before any major changes in the responsibility of the minister presently in post are considered, or if additions to the ministry team are being contemplated, the agreed procedure of the Sponsoring Body shall be followed. (Appendix 2)
19. Newly appointed ministers shall be inducted / welcomed at a service at which they, other members of the ministry team, the LEP and representatives of the Sponsoring Body reaffirm the Ecumenical Vision Statement. (Appendix 1 & 2)
20. All ministers serving the LEP shall seek or be offered appropriate status within all the Participating Churches.
21. Remuneration of Ministers shall be in accordance with the practices of the appointing Participating Denomination.

Relationship with the Participating Denominations

22. The Trustees shall exercise the functions of:
 - a) the Elders' Meeting in the case of the United Reformed Church;
 - b) The Methodist Church Council during the currency of a direction of the Synod under Standing Order 611 of the Methodist Church, for the purposes and with the additional persons specified therein;

c) (See Appendix 2)

23. The LEP shall maintain a proper relationship to the appropriate local and regional bodies of the Participating Denominations, fulfilling necessary constitutional requirements. These bodies are:
 - a) in the case of the United Reformed Church, the Thames North Synod;
 - b) in the case of the Methodist Church, the South Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit;
24. To that end, meetings of the members of the LEP affiliated to a particular Participating Denomination (as opposed to meetings of the members of the LEP) may be held in order to meet the constitutional requirements of the Participating Denomination concerned.
25. The premises of the LEP comprise those previously operating as Wigmore Church Luton and St. Katherine's Church Dunstable and may be subject to a sharing agreement under the provisions of the Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969.

Ongoing development

26. Other churches in or near the Area of Benefit may seek participation in the LEP at any time, subject to the agreement of the appropriate authorities of the Participating Denominations and the Sponsoring Body.
27. The LEP looks to the Sponsoring Body to review its work and witness every seven years, or sooner, with reference to its purpose set out in the Ecumenical Vision Statement and this Constitution. (End)

APPENDICES NOS 1-7

NEWLAND CHURCH (early summer 2023)

Appendix 1 Ecumenical Vision

This appendix is to the Constitution and Schedule of Newland Church. Nothing in this appendix shall contradict, alter or supersede the Constitution and the Schedule. All reasonable steps shall be taken to ensure any amendments or updates accord with the main document.

1. Newland Church has an Ecumenical Vision where Christian Churches and Christian folk may worship and witness in an atmosphere of fellowship and friendship.
2. Newland Church recognises and values the strong links which have existed both formally and informally with other denominations.
3. **Newland Church Statement of Faith and Order**

We are people of God following the way of Jesus.
With the whole Christian Church
we believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
***The living God, the only God,
ever to be praised.***

The life of faith to which we are called
is the oneness of the Spirit,
wisdom continually received
through the inspiration of Word,
the sharing of the Sacraments
and our Christian life together.
***We acknowledge the gifts
and answer the call,
giving thanks for our oneness.***

In our life together we seek God's Word
through the study of Scripture
and the inspiration of the Spirit.
We believe God continues to speak
through this and through all creation.
***We respond to God's Word,
with all God's people
through the years.***

We acknowledge with thanksgiving to God
the witness to the catholic faith
in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.
We learn from the journey of
the United Reformed Church
and the Methodist church
whose traditions we follow,
whilst seeking to create new traditions
for our own generation
which make clear the faith for our world today.
***Faith alive and active:
gift of an eternal source,
renewed for every generation.***

We conduct our life together
according to the faith and order
of the United Reformed and Methodist Churches

as they give expression to our faith.
However, we affirm our right and readiness,
if the need arises,
to make new statements of faith
in ever new obedience to the Living Christ.
***Who was, is and forever will be,
our guide and inspiration on our journey.***

Held together in the Body of Christ
through the freedom of the Spirit,
we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts
and uphold the rights of personal conviction.
For the sake of faith and fellowship
it shall be for the church to decide
where differences of conviction
hurt our unity and peace.

***We commit ourselves
to speak the truth in love
and grow together
in the peace of Christ.***

We believe that love is greater than fear,
as Jesus challenged ways that create injustice,
so we too reserve the right to challenge
when words and actions create injustice.
In our life together we seek to love all neighbours
and serve all people
as followers of Jesus.

***We are servants in the world
as citizens of God's eternal kingdom.***

We affirm our intention
to go on praying and working,
with all our fellow Christians,
for the visible unity of the Church
following the way of Jesus,
so that people and nations
may be led to love and serve God
and praise him more and more for ever.

***Source, Guide, and Goal
of all that is:
to God be eternal glory.***

Amen.

This appendix is in development and may be expanded or refined.

Appendix 2 Terminology

This appendix is to the Constitution and Schedule of Newland Church.
Nothing in this appendix shall contradict, alter or supersede the Constitution and the Schedule. All reasonable steps shall be taken to ensure any amendments or updates accord with the main document.

1. LEP. In the setting up of Newland Church and its Constitution, not all parties are ready to enter a formal LEP but that is the model that Newland Church wishes to adopt and follow.
2. 'Sponsoring Body' It is understood that, given the changes in working practices of local ecumenism, a 'Sponsoring Body' may not be in place.
3. Under normal circumstances Newland Church will use the terminology of the United Reformed Church with reference, for example, to Congregational Meetings being referred to as Church Meetings.

4. Newland Church will refer to meetings of Trustees as Elders' meetings whilst recognising the exceptions in paras. 25, 27 and 30c of the Constitution.
5. Any reference to a Trustee refers to an Elected Trustee unless otherwise stated.
6. re Schedule para 16, Newland Church adopts the URC policy of Open Table for the Sacrament.

This appendix is in development and may be expanded or refined.

Appendix 3 Partnerships

This appendix is to the Constitution and Schedule of Newland Church.

Nothing in this appendix shall contradict, alter or supersede the Constitution and the Schedule. All reasonable steps shall be taken to ensure any amendments or updates accord with the main document.

1. Newland Church, while not currently in a formal LEP with the Methodist Church greatly values and will continue to work closely the Methodist Church and the local Circuit.
2. Newland Church respects the existing links with users of Church premises and will seek to forge closer working relationships where appropriate to further the work of the Charity as defined in paras. 2 and 3 of the Constitution.

This appendix is in development and may be expanded or refined.

Appendix 4 Safeguarding

This appendix is to the Constitution and Schedule of Newland Church.

Nothing in this appendix shall contradict, alter or supersede the Constitution and the Schedule. All reasonable steps shall be taken to ensure any amendments or updates accord with the main document.

Newland Church will adopt and follow the Safeguarding model of the United Reformed Church.
(Policy to be attached)

This appendix is in development and may be expanded or refined.

Appendix 5 Details of Trustees

This appendix is to the Constitution and Schedule of Newland Church.

Nothing in this appendix shall contradict, alter or supersede the Constitution and the Schedule. All reasonable steps shall be taken to ensure any amendments or updates accord with the main document.

As of 6th August 2023 the elected Trustees of Newland Church are:

Valerine Alderman
Mary Arthur
Ann Burgoyne
Jannette Cannon
Rona Harvey
Margaret Hoey
Olive McCabe
Lawrence Patterson
Elizabeth Plews
Aileen Stewart
Philip Watson
Thelma Williams

Appendix 6

Financial Procedures

This appendix is to the Constitution and Schedule of Newland Church. Nothing in this appendix shall contradict, alter or supersede the Constitution and the Schedule. All reasonable steps shall be taken to ensure any amendments or updates accord with the main document.

1. Newland Church, in seeking to be both responsible and environmentally aware will operate a CAF bank account with investments being held in trust by the Thames North Trust of the United Reformed Church.
2. Newland Church will seek to adhere to all requirements of the Charity Commission in its responsible use of funds and in its adoption of financial procedures.
3. Newland Church shall consider indemnity insurance to protect individuals operating under instruction from and in the best interests of Newland Church.

This appendix is in development and may be expanded or refined.

Appendix 7

Transitional arrangements

This appendix is to the Constitution and Schedule of Newland Church. Nothing in this appendix shall contradict, alter or supersede the Constitution and the Schedule. All reasonable steps shall be taken to ensure any amendments or updates accord with the main document.

1. NEWLAND CHURCH may adopt transitional arrangements to ensure the interests of all of the previous congregations are heard and considered. This period to last no longer than 6months following the conclusion of the sale of the buildings previously used by Bury Park Luton, Edward Street Dunstable and St. Ninian's Luton.
2. Transitional arrangements will allow for Elders to stand down after one year or to continue to serve in order to allow for representation and refreshment.
3. Transitional arrangements may allow for decision making to be by consensus in order to ensure representation.

This appendix is in development and may be expanded or refined.