

# FORWARDINFAITH

## CONSTITUTION

(as amended by the National Assembly on 14 November 2015)

### 1. NAME:

The name of the Organisation is "Forward in Faith" (hereinafter called the Organisation).

### 2. OBJECTS:

The Organisation is established to advance the Christian religion by promoting the spread of the catholic faith in accordance with the traditional understanding of the historic apostolic succession, the ministry of bishops and priests, and full ecclesial communion.

### 3. POWERS:

In furtherance of this object but not otherwise the Organisation shall have the following powers:-

- a] power to provide spiritual support to all who in conscience are unable to accept the ordination of women to the priesthood and episcopate in any Province of the Anglican Communion
- b] power to seek an ecclesial structure which will continue the orders of bishop and priest as the Church has received them and which can guarantee a true sacramental life
- c] power to support The Society, as an ecclesial structure which continues the orders of bishop and priest as the Church has received them and which guarantees a true sacramental life
- d] power to do all such lawful things as may be conducive to or incidental to the attainment of the objects of the Organisation and to the spread of the catholic faith
- e] power to print, publish, issue and circulate literature in the interests of the organisation, in the form of journals, pamphlets, leaflets and otherwise

- f] power to appeal for and accept gifts, donations, subscriptions and collections, and to apply the same for the objects of the Organisation, or to invest the same in such manner as may be thought fit, and apply the income thereof for any of the objects of the Organisation, with power to vary the said investments, and to resort to the capital thereof if and when required for any of the said objects
- g] power to borrow, or raise, or secure the payment of money for the purposes of, or in connection with, the Organisation's objectives in such manner and upon such terms as the Organisation may think fit
- h] power to institute, conduct, defend or compromise legal proceedings by and against the Organisation
- i] power to establish and support or to aid in the establishment and support of any associations, institutions, funds and trusts, and any educational, literary, religious or charitable institutions, and any club or other establishment calculated to advance the interests of the Organisation
- j] power to amalgamate or co-operate with any institution, society, body or association carrying on or engaged in or about to carry on, or engage in, any business or transaction capable of being conducted so as directly or indirectly to benefit the Organisation
- k] power to employ a director and pay him/her reasonable remuneration for work undertaken in the administration of the Organisation. The Trustees may also employ such other staff, not being Council members, on such reasonable terms and conditions as they deem fit
- l] power to keep true accounts of the sums of money received and expended by the Organisation, and the matter in respect of which such receipts and expenditure take place, and of the property, credits and liabilities of the Organisation. It shall be an obligation of the Organisation once at least in every year to have the accounts of the Organisation examined and the correctness of the balance sheet ascertained by one or more Chartered or Incorporated Accountants

#### **4. WINDING UP/DISSOLUTION:**

The Organisation may be dissolved by resolution of the Council, such resolution requiring a two-thirds majority of the members of the Council present and voting at a meeting called for that purpose.

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Organisation there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall be given up or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having similar objects to the objects of the Organisation.

## **5. MEMBERSHIP:**

Membership of the Organisation shall comprise:

- a] All those, clerical and lay, who are in full sympathy with Powers 3 a] and 3 b] above and who accept the traditional understanding of the historic apostolic succession, the ministry of bishops and priests, and full ecclesial communion, who have registered their names with the Organisation, subject to the approval of the Council.
- b] Societies which are in full sympathy with Powers 3 a] and 3 b] above, which accept the traditional understanding of the historic apostolic succession, the ministry of bishops and priests, and full ecclesial communion and which pay to the Organisation an annual affiliation fee, the amount of which shall from time to time be determined by the Council, shall, subject to the approval of the Council, be recognised as Affiliated Organisations.
- c] Parishes which are in full sympathy with Powers 3 a] and 3 b] above, which accept the traditional understanding of the historic apostolic succession, the ministry of bishops and priests, and full ecclesial communion, and whose Parochial Church Councils or other appropriate governing body so resolve, and which pay an annual affiliation fee, the amount of which shall from time to time be determined by the Council, shall, subject to the approval of the Council, be recognised as Registered or Affiliated Parishes.

## **6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

- a] The management and control of the Organisation shall be exercised by an Executive Committee, whose members shall be the Trustees of the Charity.
- b] The Executive Committee shall report regularly to the Council on its meetings and decisions and on the finances of the Organisation.
- c] The Executive Committee shall consult the Council on significant matters of policy (but without prejudice to its duty to take any urgent action that its members, as Trustees, consider necessary to safeguard the interests of the Organisation).
- d] The following Officers, elected members and co-opted members shall be members of the Executive Committee:
  - Chairman (elected by all the delegates to the National Assembly)
  - Clerical Vice-Chairman (elected by all the delegates to the National Assembly)
  - Lay Vice-Chairman (elected by all the delegates to the National Assembly)
  - 3 Members of the Council (elected by the Council)
  - Treasurer (appointed by the Executive Committee with the approval of the Council)
  - 3 Members with relevant expertise (co-opted by the Executive Committee with the approval of the Council)
- e] Officers and other members of the Executive Committee shall be elected, appointed or co-opted for a term of four years and shall be eligible for re-election, re-appointment or renewed co-option.

- f] No person who is not a member of the Organisation or who is not eligible to serve as a charitable Trustee shall be eligible to become or remain an Officer or a member of the Executive Committee.
- g] An Officer or other member of the Executive Committee shall *ipso facto* cease to hold office:-
  - i] If he or she becomes of unsound mind
  - iii] If he or she ceases for three successive meetings to attend meetings of the Council or Executive Committee respectively, without good cause
  - iv] If he or she resigns in writing.
- h] A casual vacancy in respect of the post of Chairman, Clerical Vice-Chairman or Lay Vice-Chairman shall be filled by the Council from within its existing membership and the new officer shall remain in office only for the unexpired period of the person who ceased to hold office, and shall be eligible for re-election.
- i] The Director shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Trustees but shall withdraw from any meeting of the Trustees whilst his/her remuneration is being discussed.
- j] The quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee shall be three, or one-third of the current number of Trustees, whichever is the greater. No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Executive Committee unless a quorum is present.

## 7. COUNCIL:

- a] There shall be a Council, which shall undertake the responsibilities allocated to it by this Constitution, and shall receive at each meeting reports on the meetings and decisions of the Executive Committee, the work of the Director and the finances of the Organisation.
- b] There shall be three categories of member of the Council:
  - i] Ex Officio members
  - ii] Elected members
  - iii] Co-opted members
- c] Members of the Council shall be as follows:
  - i] Ex Officio members:
    - a] The members of the Executive Committee
    - b] The Bishops of Beverley, Ebbsfleet, Richborough and Fulham, provided in each case that he is a member of the Organisation and is ministering under the terms of the House of Bishops' Declaration on the Ministry of Bishops and Priests, the London Plan or comparable arrangements
    - c] The Provincial Assistant Bishop of the Church in Wales, provided that he is a member of Forward in Faith and is ministering under the terms of the Pastoral Guidelines referred

to in the fifth recital to the bill enacted by the Church in Wales to permit the admission of women to the canonical priesthood or comparable arrangements

- d] The Chairman of the Catholic Group in General Synod, if he or she is a member of Forward in Faith
- e] The Chairman of the Council of Bishops of The Society, if he is a member of Forward in Faith.

ii] Elected Members

- a] Five members, either clerical or lay, elected by all the delegates to the National Assembly.
- b] Up to sixteen members, of which fifty per cent shall be ordained and fifty per cent shall be lay, elected by the delegates to the National Assembly divided on a regional basis. For the purposes of this election, England, Scotland and Wales shall be divided into regions, in a manner which shall from time to time be determined by the Council and which shall reflect the geographical and numerical distribution of the membership of the Organisation, together with the Affiliated Parishes, and each region shall elect such number of lay and number of clerical members of the Council as the Council may from time to time determine.
- c] One member, elected by the members of RooT (Religious of Orthodox Tradition).

iii] Co-opted members:

The Council shall have the power to co-opt one ordinand (chosen after consultation with the ordinand members of the Organisation) and up to seven additional members of the Organisation, clerical or lay.

- d] The Director shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Council but shall withdraw from any meeting of the Council whilst his/her remuneration is being discussed.
- e] The elected members of the Council shall hold office for four years and be eligible for re-election.
- f] Co-opted members of the Council shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- g] Where an elected member of the Council has been appointed to fill a casual vacancy in the office of Chairman, Clerical Vice-Chairman or Lay Vice-Chairman, the resulting casual vacancy for an ordinary member shall be filled in accordance with 7 (h) below.
- h] Casual vacancies shall be filled by the electing body and the new member shall remain in office only for the unexpired period of the person who ceased to hold office but shall be eligible for re-election.

- i] A member of the Council or of any Committee shall *ipso facto* cease to hold office:-
  - i] If he or she becomes of unsound mind
  - ii] If he or she ceases to be a member of the Organisation
  - iii] If he or she ceases for three successive meetings to attend meetings of the Council or Committee respectively, without good cause
  - iv] If he or she resigns in writing.

## **8. LOCAL ORGANISATION:**

The Council shall have power to establish local branches for the furtherance of the said objects. Each branch so established shall comply with and be subject to the following regulations:-

- a] The branch shall act in pursuance of the said objects and of the policy of the Organisation and shall be subject to such conditions as may from time to time be laid down by the Council.
- b] The title of the branch shall be subject to the prior approval of the Council.
- c] No person who is not a member of the Organisation shall be eligible to become or remain an officer of the branch.
- d] The branch will be deemed to have adopted the model rules for branches as prescribed from time to time by the Council unless it has, with the prior approval of the Council, adopted other rules.
- e] The branch may publish literature solely in the name of the branch for local purposes but such literature shall not contain any statement contrary to the said objects or to the policy of the Organisation.
- f] Representations of whatever kind to other bodies and/or individuals may only be made by the branch through or with the prior approval of the Council.
- g] All legacies bequeathed to the Organisation shall be received by the Treasurer or other appropriate officer of the Organisation but, subject to any special trusts by which such legacies may be affected, the Council shall have power to direct that any legacy or the income therefrom shall be paid to a particular branch.
- h] The branch may be empowered by the Council to receive donations and any money received or raised by it may be expended by the branch in its area solely for the furtherance of the said objects. The branch shall make returns to the Organisation in such form as may from time to time be determined by the Executive Committee.
- i] Subject to these regulations, the branch may generally manage its own affairs and shall be solely responsible for its own debts and liabilities and shall not pledge the credit of the Organisation or that of the Council, the Trustees or any individual member of the Council.

## **9. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:**

A National Assembly shall be convened and meet on such occasions as the Council shall determine.

The membership of the National Assembly shall comprise members of the Organisation who are:

- i] Members of the Council
- ii] The Provincial Episcopal Visitors
- iii] Other Bishops who accept the traditional understanding of the historic apostolic succession, the ministry of bishops and priests, and full ecclesial communion
- iv] Area Assembly Chairmen
- v] Two representatives from each Affiliated Organisation, elected in such manner as the Affiliated Organisation may determine. Affiliated Organisations which are wholly clerical or wholly lay shall elect either two clerical or two lay representatives from within their own membership. Affiliated Organisations, membership of which is open to both clergy and laity shall elect two representatives, one clerical and one lay
- vi] Two representatives, one clerical and one lay, from each Registered or Affiliated Parish, elected in such manner as the parish may determine
- vii] Representatives of those clergy and laity in each Area who are not members of Registered Parishes, elected from among such clergy and laity on such basis as the Council shall from time to time determine.
- viii] Bishops' Representatives (appointed by Bishops of The Society), the Dean for Scotland (appointed by the Council), and the Regional Deans appointed by the Provincial Council of Credo Cymru.

Members of the National Assembly elected under section vii] above shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for re-election.

Casual vacancies shall be filled by the electing body and the new member shall remain in office only for the unexpired period of the person who ceased to hold office but shall be eligible for re-election.

The Council shall have the power to elect to Life Membership of the National Assembly any member of the Organisation whose contribution to the life and work of the Organisation has been so distinguished over a period of years that it should receive formal and public acknowledgement.

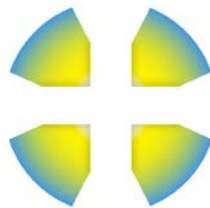
The Council shall be the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

## **11. ALTERATIONS TO CONSTITUTION:**

- i] 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 delegates to the National Assembly.
- ii] No amendment may be made to the name, the objects, the dissolution clause, this clause or the interpretation clause without the prior consent in writing of the Charity Commission.
- iii] No amendment may be made which would have the effect of the Organisation ceasing to be a charity in law.
- iv] The Council shall promptly send to the Charity Commission a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

## **12. INTERPRETATION OF CONSTITUTION:**

- i] Subject to the following provision of this clause, any questions arising as to the meaning of the provisions of this Constitution or of any regulation or prescription thereunder shall be determined by the Council, whose decision shall be final and conclusive for all purposes.
- ii] In this Constitution
  - “the traditional understanding of the historic apostolic succession, the ministry of bishops and priests, and full communion” means the understanding as reflected in the Book of Common Prayer, the Ordinal and the Canons of the Church of England prior to the coming into force of the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993 and the Canons promulgated on 22 February 1994.
  - “The Society” means The Society under the patronage of S. Wilfrid and S. Hilda.



**FORWARDINFAITH**

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**Registered Charity Number 1057246**