



# CONSTITUTION

*As amended by the National Assembly of Forward in Faith  
on 14 November 2015 and on 28 May 2022*

## 1. NAME

- 1.1 The name of the Organisation is "Forward in Faith" (hereinafter called the Organisation or the Charity).

## 2. OBJECTS

- 2.1 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

- 3.1 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 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 OR DISSOLUTION**

- 4.1 The Organisation may be wound up or dissolved by resolution of the Executive, such resolution requiring a two-thirds majority of the members of the Executive present and voting at a meeting called for that purpose.
- 4.2 Before any such resolution can be brought to the Executive for decision, the Executive must consult the membership of the Organisation at the Organisation's Annual Meeting (see Section 9 below). The Executive must have regard to the views expressed at the Annual Meeting before reaching a decision.
- 4.3 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**

- 5.1 Membership of the Organisation shall comprise:
- a] All those, clerical and lay, who are in full sympathy with Powers 3.1 [a] and 3.1 [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 Executive.
  - b] Societies which are in full sympathy with Powers 3.1 [a] and 3.1 [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 Executive, shall, subject to the approval of the Executive, be recognised as Affiliated Organisations.
  - c] Parishes which are in full sympathy with Powers 3.1 [a] and 3.1 [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 Executive, shall, subject to the approval of the Executive, be recognised as Registered or Affiliated Parishes.

## 6. THE EXECUTIVE

- 6.1 The management and control of the Organisation shall be exercised by the Executive, whose members shall be the Trustees of the Charity.
- 6.2 The following shall be members of the Executive:
- a] Three clerical members of the Advisory Council, elected to the Executive by the members of the Advisory Council.
  - b] Three lay members of the Advisory Council, elected to the Executive by the members of the Advisory Council.
  - c] One clerical member or one lay member of the Advisory Council, elected to the Executive by the members of the Advisory Council.
  - d] Three bishops nominated by The Society's Council of Bishops from among their own number.
  - e] A treasurer appointed by the 10 members of the Executive at 6.2 [a] to 6.2 [d] above.
  - f] Two co-opted members appointed for their expertise appointed by the 10 members of the Executive at 6.2 [a] to 6.2 [d] above.
- 6.3 The 10 members of the Executive at 6.2 [a] to 6.2 [d] above shall appoint a Chairman, who may be a bishop or a clerical member, or a lay member, from among their own number.
- 6.4 The 10 members of the Executive at 6.2 [a] to 6.2 [d] above shall appoint a Clerical Vice-Chairman from among the clerical members at 6.2 [a] and 6.2 [c] above.
- 6.5 The 10 members of the Executive at 6.2 [a] to 6.2 [d] above shall appoint a Lay Vice-Chairman from among the lay members at 6.2 [b] and 6.2 [c] above.
- 6.6 Members of the Executive 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.
- 6.8 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 a member of the Executive.
- 6.9 Any member of the Executive shall *ipso facto* cease to hold office:
- a] If he or she becomes of unsound mind.
  - b] If he or she ceases to be a member of the Organisation.
  - c] If he or she ceases for three successive meetings to attend meetings of the Executive without good cause.
  - d] If he or she resigns in writing.

- 6.10 A casual vacancy in respect of the post of Chairman, Clerical Vice-Chairman or Lay Vice-Chairman shall be filled by the Executive 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.
- 6.11 The Director shall routinely attend meetings of the Executive, noting that there will occasionally be agenda items for which it would not be appropriate for the Director to be present and that, on those occasions, the Director shall withdraw from the meeting.
- 6.12 The quorum for meetings of the Executive shall be seven members. No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Executive unless a quorum is present.

## **7. THE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

- 7.1 There shall be an Advisory Council, whose membership will be elected by all members of the Organisation on an area basis, and split between clerical members and lay members, as set out in 7.4 below.
- 7.2 For corporate members of the Organisation, the chairman of a parochial church council will cast a vote on behalf of a parish which is a member of the Organisation, and the chairman of a society will cast a vote on behalf of a society which is a member of the Organisation.
- 7.3 The primary role of the Advisory Council will be to elect members to serve on the Executive from among its own membership, as set out in 6.2 [a] to 6.2 [c] above.
- 7.4 The Advisory Council may meet at other times to discuss matters of interest to the Organisation, and make recommendations to the Executive accordingly, but its decision-making role is limited to electing members to serve on the Executive as set out in 7.2 above.
- 7.5 Members of the Advisory Council shall be elected by all members of the Organisation on an area basis, and split between clerical members and lay members, as follows:
- a] Two clerical members and two lay members from the Beverley area.
  - b] Two clerical members and two lay members from the Ebbsfleet area.
  - c] Two clerical members and two lay members from the Richborough area.
  - d] One clerical member and one lay member from the Fulham area.
- 7.6 Candidates for the named areas of Beverley, Ebbsfleet, Richborough and Fulham must either reside in that area or be on the electoral roll of a parish in that area. In circumstances where this gives candidates a choice of area, it is up to the candidate in which area they wish to stand, noting that they may only stand in one area.

- 7.7 The members of the Advisory Council shall elect a Chairman from among its members, whose role will be to call meetings of the Advisory Council and to chair meetings of the Advisory Council. A meeting of the Advisory Council may also be called with the agreement of five members of the Advisory Council, submitted in writing to the Chairman of the Advisory Council and copied to the Director.
- 7.8 The Director shall routinely attend meetings of the Advisory Council, noting that there will occasionally be agenda items for which it would not be appropriate for the Director to be present and that, on those occasions, the Director shall withdraw from the meeting.
- 7.9 The elected members of the Advisory Council shall hold office for four years and be eligible for re-election.
- 7.10 With the agreement of the majority of the members of the Advisory Council, other individual may be co-opted to join the Advisory Council as non-voting members for specific purposes.
- 7.11 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.
- 7.12 No person who is not a member of the Organisation shall be eligible to become or remain a member of the Advisory Council.
- 7.13 A member of the Advisory Council shall *ipso facto* cease to hold office:
- a) If he or she becomes of unsound mind.
  - b) If he or she ceases to be a member of the Organisation.
  - c) If he or she ceases for three successive meetings to attend meetings of the Advisory Council without good cause.
  - d) If he or she resigns in writing.

## **8. LOCAL BRANCHES**

- 8.1 The Executive shall have the 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:
- 8.2 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 Executive.
- 8.3 The title of the branch shall be subject to the prior approval of the Executive.
- 8.4 No person who is not a member of the Organisation shall be eligible to become or remain an officer of the branch.

- 8.5 The branch will be deemed to have adopted the model rules for branches as prescribed from time to time by the Executive unless it has, with the prior approval of the Executive, adopted other rules.
- 8.6 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.
- 8.7 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 Executive.
- 8.8 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 Executive shall have power to direct that any legacy, or the income therefrom, shall be paid to a particular branch.
- 8.9 The branch may be empowered by the Executive 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.
- 8.10 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 Executive or any individual member of the Executive.

## **9. ANNUAL MEETING**

- 9.1 There shall be an annual meeting of the Organisation which all members of the organisation shall be entitled to attend.
- 9.2 The Annual Meeting shall be called at such time and place as the Executive shall determine. At least two months' notice of the time and place of the meeting must be given by the Executive to the membership of the Organisation. The agenda for the Annual Meeting will be circulated at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.
- 9.3 The Annual Meeting shall consider the following:
- a] The audited financial statements of the Organisation. The financial statements must be circulated at least two weeks in advance of the meeting as part of the agenda. Members of the Organisation may ask questions of the Executive and the Director at the Annual Meeting on the content of those financial statements.
  - b] Any proposed alterations to the Constitution (see Section 10 below). One month's notice of any such proposals needs to be given and must be proposed and seconded by members of the Organisation at the point of submission or be submitted at the behest of the Executive.

- c] Any recommendations or motions presented by members of the Organisation. One month's notice of any such recommendations or motions needs to be given and must be proposed and seconded by members of the Organisation at the point of submission. The Executive must have regard to the content of any such recommendations or motions, when agreed by simple majority at the Annual Meeting, but they will not be binding on the Executive which shall retain the management and control of the Organisation at all times.
- d] Any proposal from the Executive to wind up or dissolve the Organisation (see Section 4).

## **10. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- 10.1 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 of the Organisation present and voting at the Annual Meeting (see Section 9).
- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 No amendment may be made which would have the effect of the Organisation ceasing to be a charity in law.
- 10.4 The Executive shall promptly send to the Charity Commission a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

## **11. INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

- 11.1 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 Executive, whose decision shall be final and conclusive for all purposes.
- 11.2 In this Constitution:
  - a] "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.
  - b] "The Society" means The Society under the patronage of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda.





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**Registered Charity Number: 1057246**