

Churches Together in GRAVESHAM



United in sharing the love of Christ

Churches Together in Gravesham - Constitution

1) Purpose

Churches Together in Gravesham, which is affiliated to Churches Together in Kent, exists to pursue the following aims (examples given in *Appendix 1*) :-

- a) Act on behalf of Member Churches to plan events, exchange information, skills and contacts and facilitate Christian activities in Gravesham;
- b) Promote unity in Christ through regular worship and prayer activities;
- c) Plan and promote Christian public witness events in Gravesham;
- d) Support and encourage united Christian working through local church links;
- e) Encourage and instigate Mission and Evangelism locally, connecting with the local community and engaging with local and national social issues.

2) Member Churches

Membership is open to all Christian churches within or near the Borough of Gravesham which acknowledge God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus as God and Saviour according to the Scripture, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves:-

- a) To seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the church, which is His body;
- b) To fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world, and;
- c) To glorify the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Acceptance of membership shall be presumed, on the basis that the applicant church can agree to the tenets of faith as detailed in the Nicene Creed (*Appendix 2*)

Each member church will:

- a) Appoint
 - i. a voting representative to attend at Open Meetings, informing the Secretary of name, postal and e-mail addresses and telephone number.
 - ii. a substitute to attend Open Meetings and vote in the absence of the appointed voting representative.
 - iii. a representative (not necessarily the voting representative) who will actively participate as a link between the Executive and the church;
- b) Share information about special events, activities or developments;
- c) Seek opportunities to share resources and increase co-operation with other member churches;
- d) Pay promptly on request the agreed annual membership fee.

3) Open Meetings

Churches Together in Gravesham shall;

- a) Hold at least one Open Meeting (i.e. a meeting which anyone is entitled to attend) each year, which shall be called the Annual Meeting. This meeting will undertake the business required by this constitution and other matters requested by Member Churches. It will receive a report of activities since the previous Annual Meeting, receive a financial report

and the written report of the Independent Examiner. Notification of agenda items must be made available to Member Churches at least two weeks before the meeting.

- b) Elect at its Annual Meeting;
 - (i) Officers :-
 - i. Chair;
 - ii. Secretary;
 - iii. Treasurer;
 - iv. Vice Chair;
 - (ii) An Independent Examiner
- c) Confirm by public vote the membership of the Exec
Such positions shall be elected by majority vote;
- d) Call other meetings if required;
- e) Agree the annual subscription at the Annual General Meeting;
- f) Maintain liaison with and between Member Churches through an Executive Committee.

4) Executive

The Executive Committee has the responsibility for administering the ongoing activities of Churches Together in Gravesham throughout the year. Its membership should number 12 members, excluding the Secretary and Treasurer posts, and should:

- Broadly represent the profile of God's people in Gravesham, reflecting the range of denominations, traditions and church styles.
- Be composed of approx. 1/3 lay members, 1/3 ministers and the final 1/3 lay members or ministers as required.
- Contain the appropriate skills, gifts, wisdom and representation to enhance the work and role of the Churches Together in Gravesham. Potential members of the Executive Committee may be nominated by member churches and approached by the current Executive prior to the AGM.
- The position on the Executive Committee of every member shall be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting.

The Executive Committee shall meet throughout the year and may appoint from within its membership such Working Groups as are deemed necessary to fulfil its purpose. Such Working Groups will have power to co-opt expertise from outside bodies. In the event of an officer vacancy arising mid-year, the Executive Committee may co-opt a person to fulfil the position until the next Annual Meeting.

5) Changes to the Constitution

Any changes to this Constitution shall be agreed by the Annual Meeting, subject to them being communicated to member churches in writing not less than three calendar months in advance of the Annual Meeting. Any change to the Constitution must be supported by at least two thirds of the voting members present.

Revised November 2012
To be adopted at the
Annual General Meeting in Feb 2013

Appendix 1 - Expected regular activities include:

- Admin
 - Running the AGM
 - Regular Executive Committee meeting
 - Publicising CTG Activities
 - Managing the media profile of CTG
 - Appoint a representative to link with 'Churches Together in Kent'

- Celebrate (God's work in our churches)
 - Publicly recognising the success of/in churches
 - Welcoming new church leaders in the area
 - Growing our representation across local Christian churches

- Co-ordinate (Our activities)
 - Bringing together training events, where appropriate, for multiple churches
 - Enabling multiple churches in joint projects working (Foodbank, Street Pastors, etc)
 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 - United services
 - Election hustings

- Communicate (God's message to the town)
 - Easter annual public event
 - Carol singing
 - Schools Ministry

Appendix 2 – Nicene Creed (1975 ecumenical version ICET)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen