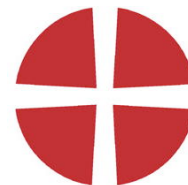


THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST ANDREW WITH CHRIST CHURCH  
AND SWAN VILLAGE METHODIST CHURCH



**DECLARATION OF INTENT**  
FOR ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP



So confirming the commitment already established  
since the sharing agreement (1988) was agreed

**ST ANDREW, CARTERS GREEN, WEST BROMWICH**  
**LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP**

Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the world has been reconciled to God and, in Jesus Christ, unity has been offered to all people. Through him, we are called into a new relationship with God and with one another as the children of God. It is a relationship inaugurated by God in Christ through the Holy Spirit, appropriated by faith and baptism, nurtured and deepened through the ministry of word and sacrament, and expressed in a confession of one faith and a common life of loving service.

“We understand the mission of the Church to be

- i to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom;
  - ii to teach, baptise and nurture new believers;
  - iii to respond to human need by loving service;
  - iv to seek to transform unjust structures of society;
  - v to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.”
- (Lambeth Conference 1988 + Anglican Consultative Council 1990 and CTE Forum 1997)*

“We, therefore, now declare together our continuing commitment to each other under God. Our earnest desire is to become more fully, in God’s own time, the one Church of Christ, united in faith, communion, pastoral care and mission. Such unity is the gift of God.”

*(Swanwick Declaration 1987)*

“With gratitude we have truly experienced this gift growing amongst us (in these past years). We affirm our openness to this growing unity in obedience to the Word of God, so that we may fully share, hold in common and offer to (the community around us) those gifts which we have received and still hold in separation. In the unity we seek, we recognise that there will not be uniformity but legitimate diversity.”

*(Swanwick Declaration 1987)*

In response to God’s call, and accepting the challenge to be pilgrims together, committed to God and to each other, we, the Churches of St Andrew with Christ Church (Church of England) and Swan Village (Methodist), hereby endorse the constitution of this Local Ecumenical Partnership, as understood by our Churches / denominations and interpreted in our Constitution.

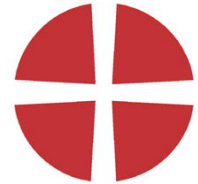
We commit ourselves to sharing together in the ministry of Christ to the world and, within this context, to explore together the meaning and possibilities of unity for worship, evangelism, mission and service.

We commit ourselves to assessing the resources of church and community in terms of people, money and buildings, and to deploying them in the best way in relation to the aspirations and needs of local people.

# CONSTITUTION



St Andrew's with Christ Church (Church of England)  
with Swan Village Methodist Church, West Bromwich:  
Single Congregation Partnership



## 1 NAME

The Local Ecumenical Partnership shall be known as St Andrew's, Carters Green. The partnership is between the Anglican Parish of St Andrew with Christ Church and Swan Village Methodist Church.

## 2 AREA

The Ecumenical Partnership primarily services the community/neighbourhood of Carters Green, Guns Village, Tantony and Swan Village, and those who associate with it and benefit from its ministry. The area of ministry will be St Andrew's Church of England Church in the Ecumenical Partnership. The area of ministry is the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Andrew, Carters Green, as determined by the Diocese of Lichfield (see map).

## 3 SPONSORING BODY

The Partnership looks for support and oversight to the Black Country Churches Engaged, or its successor, as its Sponsoring Body and will be accountable to the partner Churches through the Sponsoring Body.

The Sponsoring Body shall indicate the membership and terms of reference of a Local Support and Advisory Group through whose befriender/s regular two-way contact shall be maintained. Oversight will therefore be experienced as both communal and personal.

A written Annual Report shall be made to the Sponsoring Body.

## 4 BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP

Baptism shall be administered according to the rite and/or practice of either the constituent 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.

The legal requirement to keep a register of baptisms shall be met.

Since baptism is such an important step, any persons involved (candidates or parents of infants) should proceed with the full knowledge of the options that are available to them. Infant Dedication

and Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child shall be among such options, as shall be a service for the Re-affirmation of Baptismal Faith.

Preparation for confirmation or admission to the full responsibilities and privileges of membership shall be undertaken jointly and shall include specific denominational teaching and instruction.

Membership implies certain responsibilities and duties:

- regular attendance at worship including Eucharistic worship
- active sharing in the life of the church including attendance at meetings of the church and congregation
- regular sacrificial giving
- witness to God's love in the world by word and deed.

A service of Confirmation and Reception into Church Membership shall normally be administered at a joint act of worship, according to a rite authorised by the Sponsoring Body.

Those received into membership through such an act of Confirmation at a joint service are thereby members of both the participating denominations, as well as dual members of the Partnership. Non Methodists could become Methodists, while retaining their original denominational allegiance. This would be recognised and celebrated in an act of worship.

There shall be a Common Roll, including those on denominational rolls and dual members by virtue of joint confirmation, and a separate list of members shall also be kept for each denomination, dual members being included on each list.

For the purposes of financial denominational assessment, the membership may be divided into its constituent denominational parts, or in some formally agreed proportion.

In the case of those with dual membership, a formula should be agreed by the different denominations concerned through the Sponsoring Body. In the absence of such a formula, dual members shall be apportioned equally for purposes of financial assessment.

Membership discipline shall continue to be a matter for each Church/denomination following its own procedures.

## **5 WORSHIP AND THE EUCHARIST**

The Partnership shall respect the faith and practice of its member denominations.

Worship shall safeguard and present the doctrines, practices, traditions and developing traditions of each participating denomination 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 or ministers shall preside at the Eucharist as permitted by denominational legislation or by dispensation there from.

All those baptised persons recognised as communicants by the participating Churches/ denominations may receive the sacrament. However, sensitivity to the practices and disciplines of each denomination should at all times be shown.

In arranging services, encouragement shall be given to the participation of Local Preachers, Readers and others authorised as leaders of worship or as preachers.

## **6 ECUMENICAL MINISTRY TEAM**

The Ecumenical Ministry Team shall consist of the local clergy (Vicar, Associate Minister, Methodist Minister) and of any other people duly appointed by the participating denominations, after reference to the Sponsoring Body.

Denominational procedures shall be followed in the appointment/call of Ministers. Recognising, however, the importance of continuity, the Partnership expects that those responsible for the appointment/call of Ministers shall select persons who shall develop the Partnership ecumenically. To this end, the Ecumenical Church shall appoint five members to a Staffing Consultative Group, which shall follow the procedures for these Groups, as laid down by the Sponsoring Body in each and every case.

When it is anticipated that a minister or member of the Ecumenical Ministry Team serving the Partnership may leave, or before any major changes in the responsibility of the minister presently in post are considered, or if additions to the ecumenical ministry team are being contemplated, there shall be a meeting of the Staffing Consultative Group appointed by the Sponsoring Body. The Staffing Consultative Group shall comprise representatives of the Partnership, the parent bodies and two representatives of the Sponsoring Body, one of whom shall chair the Group.

The Staffing Consultative Group shall be responsible for amending an existing job description or drawing up a new one and submitting it to the appointing authority. The procedure to be followed in the appointing or re-appointing of a minister shall be agreed and shall conform to the requirements of the participating denominations. The Staffing Consultative Group shall advise as to the appropriate level of ministry and the denomination of the new minister to be sought.

The minister(s) shall be subject to the normal discipline of the Church to which each/he/she belongs.

Anglican Ministers servicing the Partnership shall be encouraged to seek Recognised and Regarded or Authorised Status from the Methodist Conference.

Newly appointed ministers shall be inducted/welcome at a service at which they, other members of the Ecumenical Team, the Local Ecumenical Partnership congregation and representatives of the Sponsoring Body shall affirm / reaffirm the Declaration of Intent.

## **7 JOINT DECISION MAKING**

Joint decision making for the Partnership shall be by means of Ecumenical Church Council.

The Ecumenical Church Council shall comprise:

- the duly appointed minister(s) and the members of the Ecumenical Ministry Team, including Church Wardens and Stewards
- an honorary treasurer and an honorary secretary, both elected by the Ecumenical Church Council from those on the Common Roll of the participating churches, and
- 12 members elected by and from those on the Common Roll (see 4 above).
- Quorum – no business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Council unless at least one third of the members are present.
- The Ecumenical Church Council shall hold up to ten meetings each year.

The Council's chairperson shall be elected from its membership.

The Ecumenical Church Council shall set up such committees as it may from time to time consider necessary; the current structure is appended to this Council's Constitution but does not form part of it.

Denominational Church Councils or other committees shall be constituted annually and meet as frequently as required for purposes determined by the respective Church.

Financial and management arrangements shall be as set out in The Sharing Agreement under the Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969, made 15 January 1988.

The Joint Council must meet when new capital money is to be raised or proposals to buy or sell land or property are being taken. The Joint Council may delegate its day-to-day management functions to the Ecumenical Church Council, but this should be by a formal decision, not by default.

A Congregational Meeting, which shall comprise all those on the Common Roll, shall meet once a year. Those not on the Roll may normally attend/speak, but not vote.

There shall be an Annual General Meeting, normally in March or April, at which the independently examined audited accounts for the previous financial year shall be presented for adoption. An independent examiner appointed for the current year and elections to the Ecumenical Church Council shall be held.

Where a Special General Meeting is called, those eligible to vote shall be those qualified to vote at Annual General Meetings or those on the Common Roll.

The Partnership shall maintain a proper relationship to the appropriate local and area denominational bodies, fulfilling necessary constitutional requirements.

These bodies are:

- The Church of England – West Bromwich Deanery
- The Diocese of Lichfield
- The West Bromwich Circuit of the Methodist Church
- The Birmingham District of the Methodist Church.

## **8 PREMISES**

The premises comprise St Andrew's Church building and are subject to a Sharing Agreement under the provisions of The Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969, dated 15 January 1988.

They shall be subject to inspection in accordance with the current Regulations of the Church of England.

The terms of the Sharing Agreement shall take precedence if any conflict is perceived with this Constitution.

## **9 FINANCE**

There shall be a common purse. The honorary treasurer (see 7 above) shall receive and account for all monies donated to the Partnership through collections, gifts, etc. to the Ecumenical Church Council and the Annual General Meeting.

Copies of the independently examined audited accounts, as adopted, shall be submitted to the Parochial Church Council and the Diocesan Board of Finance, and to the District/Connexion.

Out of the common income, there shall be discharged:

- the expenses of ministry and of the administrative costs of the Partnership, as agreed with the Sponsoring Body and with the appropriate bodies of the participating denominations;
- financial obligations to the central and other funds of the participating denominations, as agreed with the Sponsoring Body and with the respective denominational authorities;
- gifts to other societies and charities, as determined by the Ecumenical Church.

## **10 WIDER PARTICIPATION**

Other churches in or near the neighbourhood of the Partnership may negotiate for participation in the Partnership at any time, subject to the agreement of the appropriate denominational authorities and the Sponsoring Body.

## **11 REVIEW**

The Sponsoring Body shall ensure that every seven years, or sooner, the Partnership shall be evaluated with reference to its objectives set out in the Declaration of Intent and with the Constitution.

## **12 CONTINUITY**

The Partnership shall only be terminated with the approval of the appropriate denominational authorities and of the Sponsoring Body.

## **13 AMENDMENTS**

Any amendments to this Constitution shall be made by the Ecumenical Church Council or by a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. In either case, amendments shall be made only with the approval of the appropriate denominational authorities and of the Sponsoring Body.