



Bishopbriggs Churches Together

CONSTITUTION

1 NAME

The name shall be Bishopbriggs Churches Together (hereinafter known as BCT, except when the context otherwise demands) formerly known as Bishopbriggs Council of Churches.

2 GENERAL PURPOSE

The general purpose of BCT shall be to further the mission and realise the unity of the universal church within Bishopbriggs by providing a focus of inter church counsel and action including such purposes as are by law charitable.

3 THE BASIS and COMMITMENT

BCT unites in pilgrimage those Churches in Bishopbriggs which:

- acknowledge God's revelation in Christ,
- confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and in obedience to God's will and the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves:
- to seek a deepening of their Communion with Christ and with one another in the Church which is His Body, and;
- to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world,
- to the glory of the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

4 AIMS

In fulfilment of the general purpose, the Churches seek through BCT:-

4.1 Growth and understanding and common life

- To grow into a greater unity of mind and heart through experiencing each other's living tradition of spirituality of worship.
- To co-operate through prayer, theological reflection and consultation in all that concerns their common life especially the nature, purpose and unity of the Church.
- To work through joint action towards an evaluation on moral and social issues.

4.2 Unified Action

- To co-operate as far as possible in proclaiming the gospel to evoke a personal commitment to Christ and his Church.
- Obeying the gospel in a practical response to the life and the needs of the community.
- Witnessing to Christian moral and social values, in our phase of human history, and bringing Christian perspectives on these matters into dialogue with the secular authorities.



5 MEMBERSHIP

5.1 At the inauguration of BCT all those Churches who participated in the Bishopbriggs Council of Churches become members of BCT. These are as follows:

Member Churches

Church of Scotland:	Cadder Church Springfield Cambridge Church Kenmure Church
Scottish Episcopal Church:	St James the Less
Free Church of Scotland	
The Woodhill Evangelical Church	
The Christian Centre (now Bishopbriggs Community Church)	
Roman Catholic Church:	St Matthew Parish St. Dominic Parish

5.2 Any Church which on principle has no creedal statement in its tradition and therefore cannot formally subscribe to the statement of faith in the Basis, may never-the-less apply for and be elected to membership provided it satisfies the Member Churches which subscribe to the Basis,

- that it manifests faith in Christ, as witnessed to in the Holy Scriptures,
- that it is committed to the Aims and Purpose of BCT and,
- that it will work in the spirit of the Basis.

5.3 Associated Membership is open to:-

- Churches which, though eligible, do not wish to enter into full membership.
- Christian bodies and organisations which confirm their commitment to the Basis and to the Aims.

5.4 Observer Status is open to:-

- Any Church, Christian tradition, or other Christian body unable to accept the Basis or Aims of BCT.

5.5 BCT shall be composed of those designated and recognised by the Member Churches to which they belong, as being in a position of senior responsibility in the Church, together with all those who are in other ways representative of their Church, all appointed by and accountable to the Member Church.

5.6 After the inauguration of BCT application for membership of each of the categories will be accepted provided not less than 75% of Member Churches have voted in favour.



6 STRUCTURES

- 6.1 The structure of BCT shall maintain the authority of the Churches and enable as many of the Churches as possible to engage in common activity and for all members of the Churches, young and old, to further the Aims of BCT.
- 6.2 To achieve these ends BCT shall have the following structures, to service and enable the common work of the Churches
- Bishopbriggs Churches Together
 - Specific Groups
 - Ad Hoc Groups
- 6.2.i Bishopbriggs Churches Together
Shall be responsible for discerning the priorities and overall guidance of common action, which may be initiated by itself, one of the Specific Groups and/or an Ad Hoc Group.
- 6.2.ii Bishopbriggs Churches Together
Has decided to progress the aims through five basic elements:-
- 1 The Ministers Fraternal
This is a meeting of the Ministers of all the Churches of BCT. It shall regulate its own meetings throughout each year.
 - 2 Worshipping Together
As an expression of our needs at all times to pray together to the Lord. This group shall comprise a representative from each of the Churches making up BCT and shall be concerned with prayer at all of the meetings of the BCT; of utilising the tradition of one particular denomination for occasions of common prayer; of initiating services of prayer for the Christian seasons of the year and for special events. This group shall report to each meeting of the BCT.
 - 3 Studying Together
This group shall progress developing and maintaining common study of Holy Scripture through groups, study sessions and producing material for this and other Christian topics for the good of BCT.
 - 4 Serving the wider Community
A particular group shall have responsibility for initiating projects and initiatives which demonstrate Christian witness, 'How these Christians love one another'. These projects and initiatives shall have a time period and if it is then intended they become permanent, BCT will ensure they have the means of self financing, resourcing and all support for an independent life of BCT. The group shall report to each meeting of BCT.



5 Proclaiming Together

BCT will establish a group which through a wide variety of activities, news bulletins, news releases, publications and articles in both Christian and secular newspapers ensure the Christian message permeates all life. This group shall report to each meeting of BCT.

6.2.iii Bishopbriggs Churches Together

Shall hold its Annual General Meeting in the month of June or thereabouts each year. At the Annual General Meeting the Convenor, the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected. The Annual General Meeting shall receive and adopt the audited accounts for the financial year ended 5th April of that year. Each of these office bearers shall be nominated by being proposed and seconded by a member entitled to vote and thereafter elected on the basis of a simple majority by those voting by show of hands or by other means as may be agreed. Each office bearer shall normally serve a minimum of two years. The Annual General Meeting shall appoint auditors for the period to the next Annual General Meeting.

6.2.iv Bishopbriggs Churches Together

Shall require a quorum of 33% of members from Member Churches for all formal meetings including the Annual General Meeting.

6.2.v Bishopbriggs Churches Together

Shall have the power to co-opt a person or persons as may be necessary to assist with the work of BCT.

6.2.vi Bishopbriggs Churches Together

Shall have the power to establish an Ad Hoc Group to undertake a specific piece of work. The Ad Hoc Group shall be made up as BCT defines and will have a written brief to work to. The Ad Hoc Group shall report to each meeting of BCT during the Ad Hoc Group's existence and a final report shall be prepared and presented to BCT.

7 REPRESENTATION

7.1 The representation at BCT shall be:-

- the Minister(s) or (in churches which have no Minister) senior person of responsibility of each Member Church
- two appointed lay persons from each Member Church

These persons shall possess a vote. In the event of the absence of a representative from a meeting it shall be possible for a named alternative to be present.

- Any other member of a Member Church who has an interest in developing ecumenism and the representative of an Associated Member of BCT.

These persons shall not be entitled to vote.

7.2 It is expected all matters which are raised within BCT will be settled by consensus. However, in the event of the matter being put to the vote it shall be carried by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote. In the event of a tied vote the Convenor shall have an extra vote.



8 OFFICERS OF BISHOPBRIGGS CHURCHES TOGETHER

8.1 The Officers shall comprise:

- The Convenor
- The Secretary
- The Treasurer

8.2 The Convenor

Shall convene all meetings of BCT and shall regulate the meetings. The Convenor shall follow the standard agenda, set by BCT for meetings, but shall be empowered to alter the agenda for specific requirements. The Convenor shall ensure all members receive a fair hearing. When matters are put to the vote, each motion shall have a proposer and seconder, an alternative motion will be voted on first and if successful shall become the substantive motion. All votes will be on the basis of a simple majority carries. The Convenor shall be given due deference in the control and conduct of the meeting. The Convenor shall be paid those expenses necessarily incurred in the office of Convenor. In the absence of the Convenor the meeting shall elect a Convenor for the meeting by simple majority.

8.3 The Secretary

Shall record the minutes of each meeting of the BCT and forward a copy of the record to each representative of the Member Churches and Associated Member, prior to the next meeting of BCT, together with the Agenda for the meeting. The Secretary shall conduct such correspondence as BCT may require. The Secretary shall be paid those expenses necessarily incurred in the office as Secretary.

8.4 The Treasurer

Shall indent and receive from each Member Church its contribution annually, to BCT, to fund its operation. The Treasurer shall indent and receive from each Member Church its specific contribution for an event or an initiative, as decided by BCT at a meeting of BCT. The Treasurer shall open and maintain a bank account, receive and bank all monies, raise all bank cheques, drafts, deposits and pay all debts and charges. The Treasurer shall provide a balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure for each meeting of BCT. The Treasurer shall be paid those expenses necessarily incurred in the office as Treasurer.

8.5 The Trustees

There shall be three Trustees of BCT and these shall be

- the Convenor,
- the Secretary,
- the Treasurer,

for the time being and the Treasurer and one other Trustee shall be authorised to sign all financial forms, cheques and drafts on behalf of BCT.

9 FINANCES

9.1 BCT in co-operation with the Member Churches shall determine the annual contribution of the Member Churches.



- 9.2 Member Churches may opt to pay their annual contribution in one sum or one twelfth of the sum to be paid monthly. BCT will operate a bank account to ensure such sums can be received by cheque or standing order. A Member Church which faces difficulty in meeting its financial contribution shall advise the Trustees, who may decide to waive the Member Church's contribution in whole or in part at their discretion.
- 9.3 BCT is a non profit making organisation and all income and surplus funds after deduction of expenses shall be used to further the aim of BCT.
- 9.4 BCT is empowered to raise finance from other sources and the Treasurer is required to be fully accountable for the sums raised.
- 9.5 BCT shall apply for Charity Status and the Secretary and the Treasurer shall ensure the Charity Status number together with the BCT logo is quoted on all letterheads.
- 9.6 BCT is empowered to receive bequests and other financial gifts together with individual sums under Gift Aid for which the Treasurer may raise a claim for tax on the Inland Revenue. The Treasurer shall maintain all forms and accountancy procedures to provide evidence for the Inspector of Inland Revenue.
- 9.7 BCT may invest such sums which are not essential for the day by day expenses of BCT. The investments shall be determined by BCT as may be necessary from time to time through the Trustees. The Trustees must act at all times within their statutory duty and shall not invest without the approval of BCT.
- 9.8 BCT shall be empowered to submit applications to appropriate Trusts for funds for particular projects which are established in accordance with the Aims.
- 9.9 BCT shall be empowered to support charitable, religious or educational projects which fit within the purpose of the Aims. The limit of such donations shall be £100.00 per annum or as authorised by BCT.
- 9.10 BCT shall arrange for the accounts to be audited after 6th April each year and submit these for approval at the AGM in June.

10 RELATIONSHIPS

- 10.1 BCT is non political and is not aligned to any political party or pressure group.
- 10.2 BCT shall seek to interpret and promote the ecumenical movement, working in harmony with:-
- Glasgow Churches Together
 - Action of Churches Together Scotland
- Membership of BCT does not commit any Church to the policies and/or programmes of the other bodies.



11 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

11.1 Amendments to the Constitution which effect the Name, General Purpose, Basis, Commitment and Aims as set out in paragraphs 1 to 4 inclusive shall be circulated to all Member Churches in writing and require explicit approval of all Member Churches. The amendments may be passed by two thirds of those present and voting at a BCT meeting which has to be held not more than three months after the circulation of all the amendments.

11.2 Amendments to the Constitution which concern other matters than the Name, General Purpose, Basis, Commitment and Aims shall be determined at an Annual General Meeting of BCT by notice of motion, moved and seconded and voting by a simple majority by show of hands.

12 LEGAL ENTITY

Bishopbriggs Churches Together is a legal entity and as such has all the rights, powers and responsibilities of a legal entity in accordance with the Law in Scotland.

13 DISSOLUTION

In the event of the presentation of a motion, moved and seconded to dissolve BCT and approved, the assets shall be disposed of in such a manner as is determined by a simple majority of members present and voting, to the Member Churches.

This **CONSTITUTION OF BISHOPBRIGGS CHURCHES TOGETHER** was **ADOPTED** at the meeting of Bishopbriggs Churches Together, held at Cadder Parish Church on the evening of Monday 25th March 2002

Signatories at that date:

Cadder Parish Church of Scotland
Kenmure Church of Scotland
Springfield Cambridge Church of Scotland
St Dominic's Roman Catholic Church
St Matthew's Roman Catholic Church
St James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church
Bishopbriggs Community Church
Free Church of Scotland