

Wirral Gospel Partnership

Constitution

1. Name

The name of the Partnership shall be Wirral Gospel Partnership, hereafter referred to as the Partnership.

2. Mission Statement

As local churches to support and strengthen one another in making the good news of Jesus Christ known on Wirral.

3. Aims

- To encourage each of our churches to be committed to, and increasingly effective in, sharing, declaring and living the good news of Jesus Christ
- To ensure our church leaders meet to support each other in fellowship, prayer and planning
- To enable our churches to work and pray together when appropriate, to achieve our mission statement
- To equip our people for Christian service by providing training opportunities

4. Basis of Faith

The basis of faith is adopted from the North West Partnership:

- A. The existence of one, eternal immutable God, Creator and Lord of the Universe, who in the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, both governs all things according to his will and is accomplishing his purposes in the world and in the church.
- B. The Bible, as originally given, is the inspired, inerrant and infallible word of God. Christians must therefore submit to its supreme authority and sufficiency, both individually and corporately, in every matter of belief and conduct.
- C. The inherent value of all human beings, made by God in his own likeness, and their sinfulness and guilt since the Fall. This has rendered them subject to God's wrath and condemnation, and has resulted in their alienation from his life, suppression of his truth, and hostility to his law.
- D. The Lord Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son, is fully God; he was born of a virgin; his humanity is real and sinless; he died on the cross, was raised bodily from death and is now reigning over heaven and earth.

- E. Salvation from guilt, penalty and all other consequences of sin solely through the work of Jesus Christ – his perfect obedience, penal substitutionary death, bodily resurrection and exaltation as Lord. He alone is truly God and truly man, the only mediator between God and man. There is salvation through no other person, creed, process or power. The entirety of a sinner’s justification, from beginning to end, is only by grace alone appropriated through faith alone.
- F. Before the foundation of the world God in his mercy chose a people for himself out of the human race. He did not choose them on the basis of their foreseen faith or works, but solely on the basis of his perfect desire to glorify himself in his Son by their redemption.
- G. The necessity and sufficiency of the work of the Holy Spirit for the individual’s new birth and growth to maturity, and for the Church’s constant renewal in truth, wisdom, faith, holiness, love, power and mission.
- H. The only holy universal church is the Body of Christ; to which all true believers belong. The Church’s calling is to worship and serve God in the world, to proclaim and defend his truth, to exhibit his character and to demonstrate the reality of his new order.
- I. The personal and visible return in glory of the Lord Jesus Christ to raise the dead and bring salvation and judgement to final completion. God will fully establish his kingdom when he creates a new heaven and a new earth from which evil and evildoers, suffering and death will be excluded, and in which he will be glorified forever.

5. Membership

- We welcome churches and church leaders who endorse our mission statement and basis of faith. Joining is by means of providing the Secretary with a completed form from section 12 of this Constitution.
- Any church or church leader may resign their membership by providing the Secretary with written notice.
- Non-participating members of the Partnership (typically those absent from all Management Committee meetings from one AGM to the next) may, at the discretion of the Management Committee, have their membership rescinded leading to the need to re-apply.

6. Management Committee

The Partnership shall be administered by a Management Committee of no less than three (3), who must be at least 18 years of age. Each church shall nominate one person to the management committee for voting purposes. Individual members may attend in a non-voting capacity. Officers will be elected for a period of up to one year, but may be re-elected at the Partnership’s Annual General Meeting.

7. Officers

The Partnership shall have a Management Committee consisting of:

- The Chairperson
- The Secretary

- The Treasurer

and such members as the Partnership deems necessary at the meeting to carry out the required activities.

8. Sub-committees

Sub committees may be established and dissolved, and members of sub committees may be added or removed, by any meeting of the Management Committee or an AGM.

Every sub committee must have written terms of reference. Such terms of reference:

- shall include the name of the subcommittee and its objectives, membership (names), and chairmanship, as well as any delegated powers or directions given; and
- shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting in which the sub committee is established or any meeting in which the terms of reference are amended.

Sub committees may take action within the scope of their terms of reference but any action beyond such terms must receive prior approval of the Management Committee.

Sub committees may be comprised of anyone deemed suitable by the Management Committee, including non-members of the Partnership, provided that all members of sub committees shall be required to declare assent to the Basis of Faith in the Constitution of the Partnership.

Sub committees must report in writing to the Management Committee via the Secretary as soon as possible after each meeting of that sub committee.

At each AGM,

- there shall be a year-end report from each sub committee that has existed at some time during the preceding financial year; and
- all existing sub committees shall be reviewed and the minutes of the AGM shall include the membership of all sub committees which will continue to exist.

9. Meetings

- i. The Management Committee shall meet at least once per year. Meetings shall enable the Partnership to discuss actions and monitor progress to date, and to consider future developments.
- ii. All members shall be given at least fourteen (14) days notice of when a meeting is due to take place, unless it is deemed an emergency.
- iii. Two-thirds of the Management Committee Members must be present in order for a meeting to take place.
- iv. It shall be the responsibility of the Chairperson to chair all meetings, or a designated deputy in their absence. All meetings must be minuted and made available to interested parties.

- v. The AGM shall take place no later than three months from the end of the financial year. At least fourteen (14) days notice must be given before the meeting takes place.
- vi. All members of the Management Committee are entitled to vote at the AGM. Voting shall be made by a show of hands on a majority basis. In the case of a tied vote, the Chairperson or appointed deputy shall make the final decision.

10. Finance

- i. Any monies acquired by the Partnership, including donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Management Committee in the name of the Partnership. All funds must be applied to the objects of the Partnership and for no other purpose.
- ii. Bank accounts shall be opened in the name of Wirral Gospel Partnership. Any deeds, cheques, etc. relating to the Partnership's bank account shall be signed by at least two (2) of the Management Committee.
- iii. Any income/expenditure is the responsibility of the whole Management Committee, and the Treasurer shall be responsible to record all income and expenditure. The function of the Treasurer will also be to advise on how best to utilise funds so that the Partnership remains within budget. Official accounts shall be maintained, and will be examined annually by an independent person who is not a member of the Partnership. An annual financial report shall be presented at the AGM. The Partnership's accounting year shall run from 01 April to 31 March.

11. Alteration to the Constitution

- i. Any changes to this constitution must be agreed by a two thirds majority vote at a Special General Meeting.
- ii. Amendments to this constitution or dissolution of the Partnership must be proposed to the Secretary formally in writing. The Secretary and other Officers shall then decide on the date of a Special General Meeting to discuss such proposals, giving members at least four weeks' (28 days') notice.

12. Dissolution

- i. The Partnership may be dissolved if deemed necessary by the members in a two thirds majority vote at a Special General Meeting. Any assets or remaining funds after debts have been paid shall be returned to their providers or transferred to local charities or similar groups at the discretion of the Management Committee.

13. Application for Membership

Those requesting membership of the Partnership are required to complete the attached form and return it to the Secretary.

Application for Membership of the *Wirral Gospel Partnership*



Name

Church

Position

Membership type (tick one) Church

Church Leader

In signing this form, you are agreeing to the following:

1. You agree with and will support the Partnership's Mission Statement
2. You agree with the Basis of Faith
3. You will support and promote Partnership activities and events as appropriate
4. Church membership commits your church to reasonable annual costs towards activity in pursuit of the Mission Statement.

Signed

Date