



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN KESWICK AND NEIGHBOURHOOD (CTiK) - CONSTITUTION

CTiK is a consortium or fellowship of churches (and affiliate Christian organisations) in Keswick and neighbourhood who have voluntarily joined together to forward God's mission.

1) **Name**

- i) Churches Together in Keswick and Neighbourhood (CTiK)
- ii) The address for correspondence shall be:
Crosthwaite Parish Office, Parish Room, Main Street, Keswick CA12 5NN.

2) **Membership**

- i) Membership shall be open to all Christian Churches (and affiliate Christian organisations) in Keswick and Neighbourhood which agree to subscribe to the Objectives and Aims of CTiK declared in paragraph 3 following
- ii) Any new church wishing to become a member of CTiK shall apply to the AGM and shall enter into membership on a simple majority of those present and voting.

3) **Objectives and Aims**

- a) The objects of CTiK shall be the advancement of the Christian faith and worship, and in particular the promotion of unity and co-operation between Christian Churches in Keswick and Neighbourhood and in obedience to the Christian gospel, CTiK shall seek to relieve human suffering and poverty and to promote the advancement of education for all.
- b) CTiK will seek to further these objectives through the following means
 - i) By churches and their members working together in spreading the Christian Gospel.
 - ii) To formulate an annual programme of ecumenical events for Keswick and Neighbourhood for Christian Mission in our Community.
 - iii) To encourage all local Christians in their personal witness through shared events of worship, witness and teaching
 - iv) To encourage the sharing of resources and spiritual gifts within the churches so as to display a visible and active Christian presence in the community.
 - v) The Council may lead or lend support to other local initiatives which are considered to be of particular benefit to the moral and social well-being of the wider community in Keswick and Neighbourhood.
 - vi) To keep in touch with wider Christian events and activities at a regional and national level.

4) **Council Representatives**

- a) Two lay members may be appointed by each participating organisation in Keswick & Neighbourhood as their representatives to the CTiK Council.
- b) One Clergy/Pastor/Leader from each of the participating organisations shall also serve on the council.
- c) The Council may also co-opt other persons with specific skills to assist temporarily with particular tasks and projects.

5) **Relationship**

- a) CTiK looks to the **Churches Together in Cumbria** for support and advice where relevant.

6) **Officers**

- a) Chair - to serve for two years.
- b) Vice chair - to serve for two years and then to take over from the retiring Chair for two years.
- c) Secretary - to serve for two years.
- d) Treasurer - to serve for two years.
- e) In the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair one will normally be a Clergy/Pastor/Church Leader and the other a layperson - one of the church representatives.
- f) Officers shall be elected at the AGM by a simple majority of those present and voting. Existing post-holders can be re-elected and terms of office can be amended as agreed at the AGM.

7) **Meetings**

- a) The CTiK Council is expected to meet four times per year including the AGM.
- b) The AGM will be held in November every year and will receive the examined accounts, which will cover the year from 1 July to 30 June. At this meeting the Officers will be elected, the annual report presented, reports from other groups and amendments, if any, to the constitution will be presented.

8) **Sub Groups**

- a) Where appropriate CTiK will set up sub groups for specific tasks. These groups will report back to the next CTiK Council meeting
- b) The CTiK Council will determine the specific remit, and powers of each sub group.

9) **Amendments to Constitution**

- a) This constitution can be amended by a two thirds majority of those present and voting at the Annual General Meeting or a special meeting convened for the purpose of such on 21 days notice to the members.

10) **Finance**

- a) CTiK's operating costs shall be funded by:-
 - i) Voluntary annual affiliation fees of an amount to be determined, from time to time, by the Council and which the Treasurer shall invite supportive local churches to pay, at their discretion.
 - ii) Voluntary offerings/collections contributed by congregation members participating in periodic joint services held in local churches. (The host church can retain a proportion of the offering as is necessary to cover its own costs incurred in hosting the event.)
 - iii) Such other gifts or grants as may be donated from time to time by third parties who wish to give financial support to Churches Together in Keswick and Neighbourhood.
- b) At each meeting of the council the treasurer shall give a brief update on the current state of the funds of CTiK.
- c) An externally audited, or examined, report for the previous financial year shall be presented to each Annual Meeting.
- d) CTiK may open and operate bank accounts as approved by the Council. All payments shall be signed by two people; the annual meeting (or an ordinary meeting thereafter) may authorise up to four people as signatories to the accounts

11) *Dissolution*

- a) CTiK may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting at a Special General meeting convened for that purpose 21 days notice having been given to the members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets provided if any property remains after satisfaction of debts and liabilities such property shall not be distributed between the members but shall be given or transferred to other charitable institutions having objects similar to the objects of CTiK and if not such cannot be so given, to some other charitable purpose.
- b) In the event CTiK becomes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, so long as the aims and objectives remain identical, all assets and liabilities will be transferred to the new body.