

THE ORTHODOX FELLOWSHIP OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

(Registered Charity No. 1063713)

THE CONSTITUTION

(Approved by the AGM Held at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

14th July 2013)

1. Name

The association shall be called 'The Orthodox Fellowship of St John the Baptist'.

2. Aim

- (a) The aim of the Fellowship shall be, by such means as are charitable, to promote the Orthodox Christian Faith.
- (b) This aim shall be promoted particularly in the following ways:
 - (i) by organizing meetings, conferences and pilgrimages;
 - (ii) by issuing a bulletin and other publications;
 - (iii) by encouraging contacts among members the Orthodox Church in the British Isles and Ireland.

3. Membership

- (a) Orthodox Christians in good standing as communicants shall be eligible for membership in the Fellowship, provided that
 - (i) they are not less than 18 years of age;
 - (ii) they present their names and addresses to the Committee and inform the Committee to which Orthodox Parish they belong;
 - (iii) they are accepted by the Committee as members
- (b) Unless dispensed from so doing by the Committee, members shall pay an annual subscription, to be fixed by the General Assembly.

4. The Episcopal Assembly

- a) The Fellowship shall work with the blessing of the local Orthodox hierarchs, and more particularly of the Pan-Orthodox Episcopal Assembly for the British Isles and Ireland.
- b) The Pan-Orthodox Episcopal Assembly for the British Isles and Ireland shall appoint a President who shall be one of the bishops of the Pan-Orthodox Episcopal Assembly, for such period as the Assembly shall determine. He shall have the right to attend all meetings of the General Assembly and the Committee of the Fellowship, to speak at such meetings and to vote. It shall be his task to act as a liaison between the Pan-Orthodox Episcopal Assembly and the Orthodox Fellowship of St. John the Baptist. The President shall be an ex officio member of the Fellowship.

5. The General Assembly

- (a) A General Assembly of the Fellowship shall be held at least once in each calendar year.
- (b) The dates of the meetings of the General Assembly shall be fixed by the Committee. The General Assembly shall be summoned by one of the Officers, after consultation with the Chairman of the Fellowship. Notice of the meeting shall be sent out to all members not less than 21 days before the date of the proposed meeting.
- (c) The Chairman shall summon a meeting of the General Assembly at any time, on being so requested by not less than twenty members of the Fellowship in good standing. Such a request, specifying the topic or topics to be discussed, shall be submitted to the Chairman in writing. Notice of the meeting shall be given as in (b).
- (d) A quorum shall be deemed to be present at any meeting of the General Assembly, provided that not less than ten members are in attendance; or else, if the total number of members of the Fellowship be less than thirty, provided that not less than one third of the total number be present.
- (e) Every member of the Fellowship in good standing shall have the right to attend, speak and vote at the General Assembly.
- (f) The chair shall be taken by the Chairman of the Fellowship. In his absence, he shall appoint another officer of the Fellowship to deputize in his place.
- (g) The functions of the General Assembly shall be:
 - (i) to promote the work of the Fellowship;
 - (ii) to receive and approve, as necessary, an annual financial statement from the Treasurer;
 - (iii) when vacancies occur, to elect the Chairman of the Fellowship and the members of the Committee.

- (h) Decisions shall be taken by a majority vote of those present and voting. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.
- (i) Nominations for the office of Chairman or for Committee membership shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary before the opening of the meeting. Such nominations shall be signed by two members in good standing, and the consent of the person nominated (who shall also be a member in good standing) shall be obtained in advance by the nominators.
- (j) Election to the office of Chairman and Committee membership shall be by secret ballot.

6. The Chairman of the Fellowship

- (a) The Chairman of the Fellowship shall be elected by the General Assembly.
- (b) He shall hold office for a period of two years, and shall be eligible for re-election.

7. The Committee

- (a) In the intervals between General Assemblies, the affairs of the Fellowship shall be directed by a Committee consisting of not less than seven and not more than sixteen members of the Fellowship, this number to include both the Chairman and the President of the Fellowship.
- (b) The Chairman of the Fellowship shall be ex officio a member of the Committee, and shall take the chair at Committee Meetings. In his absence, he shall appoint another officer of the Fellowship to deputize in his place. If neither he nor a deputy appointed by him is present to chair a Committee Meeting, then the Committee, if quorate, may appoint an officer of the Fellowship, previously appointed by the Committee, to chair that particular Committee Meeting.
- (c) Except for the President, the members of the Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly.
- (d) The members of the Committee elected by the General Assembly shall serve for a period of two years, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- (e) Meetings of the Committee shall be summoned by one of the officers, after consultation with the Chairman. Notice of the meeting, with the agenda, shall be sent out to all Committee members, not less than 7 days before the date of the proposed meeting.
- (f) A quorum shall be deemed to be present, provided that not less than a third of the Committee members are in attendance.
- (g) Officers
 - (i) The Committee shall elect from among its members the following officers:
 - a Treasurer
 - a Secretary

- (ii) The Committee shall also have the right to elect other officers from among its members, as need arises.
 - (iii) All officers shall serve for two years, or for such a period as they are members of the Committee, whichever is the shorter, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- (h) Decisions at Committee meetings shall be taken by a majority vote of those present and voting. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.
- (i) The Committee may invite other persons to attend and to speak at its meetings, but such persons shall not have the right to vote.

8. Alterations to the Constitution

- (i) Subject to the following provisions of this Clause the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting at the General Assembly. The notice of the meeting of the General Assembly must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.
- (ii) No amendment may be made to clause 1 (the name of the association clause), clause 2 (the Aim), clause 9 (the dissolution clause) or this clause without the prior consent in writing of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales ("the Commissioners").
- (iii) No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the Fellowship cease to be a charity at law.
- (iv) The Committee should promptly send the Commissioners a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

9. Dissolution

If the General Assembly decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Fellowship it shall call a meeting of all members of which not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting the General Assembly shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Fellowship. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Fellowship as the members of the Fellowship shall determine or failing that shall be applied for some other charitable purpose. A copy of the statement of accounts, or account and statement, for the final accounting period of the charity must be sent to the Commissioners.

John Speak
14/07/2013