

CONSTITUTION OF THE CHRISTIAN DENTAL FELLOWSHIP (2021)

1. CONSTITUTION.

The Fellowship constituted hereby shall be a union of dentists and other dental personnel substantially involved in dental practice or in other relevant activities in relation to oral health, who are in sympathy with the aims of the Fellowship, and are prepared to sign the Membership Basis.

2. NAME.

The full name of the Fellowship shall be "The Christian Dental Fellowship" (herein referred to as "The Fellowship")

3. AIMS.

The Aims of the Fellowship shall be:

- a) To unite Christian dentists and other dental personnel in their common loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ by appropriate means of deepening their Christian Faith, and catering for their mental and spiritual welfare by prayer and pastoral support.
- b) To increase in the Dental Profession faith in Christ and the acceptance of His teaching
- c) To encourage members to support the work of the UCCF and other similar Christian organisations working amongst undergraduates.
- d) To strengthen the work of the University Christian Unions, particularly in Dental Schools.
- e) To support the work of Christian Missions throughout the world, particularly where Dental Professionals are on the staff.

4. DOCTRINAL BASIS.

The Doctrinal Basis of the Fellowship shall be:

- a) The unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the God Head.
- b) The sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgement.
- c) The divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scriptures as originally given, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- d) The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the fall, rendering man subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
- e) Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin ONLY through the sacrificial death (as our Representative and substitute) of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God.
- f) The resurrection of Christ from the dead.
- g) The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make the death of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.

- h) The Indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit In the believer.
- i) The one Holy Universal Church which is the body of Christ and to which all true believers belong.
- j) The expectation of the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. MEMBERSHIP.

- a) Full membership of the Fellowship shall be open to all those who are dentally qualified and who are entitled to have their names in the United Kingdom Dentists' Register or to other dental personnel who have completed a prescribed course and have obtained an accepted qualification agreed by Council. All members must sign the following Declaration of Membership:

"I am in sympathy with the Aims of the Christian Dental Fellowship and affirm my faith in in Jesus Christ as my Saviour, my Lord, and my God, whose atoning sacrifice is the only and all sufficient ground for my salvation. I will seek both in life and thought to be ruled by the clear teaching of the Bible, believing it to be the inspired word of God."

- b) Associate Membership of the Fellowship shall be open to other dental personnel substantially involved in dental practice or other relevant areas agreed by Council and who have also signed a declaration of Membership as in sub-clause (a) of this clause.
- c) Student Membership. Dental Students shall be welcomed as Student Members of the Fellowship but shall have no voting powers at any meetings of the Fellowship. A member of the Fellowship, to be known as the Student Co-ordinator, shall be elected to Council and shall be responsible for co-ordinating the student work. A Student Committee may be formed as may from time to time be deemed desirable to organise student activities and advise Council on student affairs; students shall be members of this committee with voting powers on the committee.
- d) Life Membership. Members of ten years standing and over shall automatically become Life Members on retirement from active practice, shall enjoy all the privileges of Full Members, but shall not pay any Annual Subscription.

6. COUNCIL.

- a) Purpose. The Council shall transact the general and constitutional business of the Fellowship and shall promote the well-being, policy and development of the Fellowship.
- b) Council. The Council shall consist of the elected officers of the Fellowship.
- c) Meetings. The Council shall meet at least twice a year and at such other times as it may itself determine.
- d) Chairman. The President of the Fellowship shall be the Chairman of the Council.
- e) Convenor. The General Secretary of the Fellowship shall be responsible for convening meetings.
- f) Co-options. Council may co-opt two members who shall be Full Members of the Fellowship.

- g) Quorum. All Council meetings shall require a quorum of at least three or more than half of the total number of committee members, whichever is the greater. If this ceases to be the case at any time, the Chair must adjourn the meeting. At all Council meetings a resolution put to the vote shall be decided by a simple majority of those entitled to vote.

7. ACTIONS.

- a) At the Annual General Meeting of the Fellowship the members present and voting shall, by a simple majority, elect officers and other Council Members for the ensuing year.
- b) Each officer and Council Member shall, upon election record his/her agreement with the Doctrinal Basis of the Fellowship, in writing, and shall cease to hold office if at any time the basis does not express his/her sincere religious beliefs.
- c) Retiring Officers (except detailed in paragraph 8 below) shall be eligible for re-election. They shall not normally serve on Council for more than 8 consecutive years in the same office.

8. PRESIDENT.

The Presidential term of office should normally be three years and should not exceed four years. He/she shall serve as President Elect for one year prior to his/her term of office and as Immediate Past President for one year following his/her term of office.

9. VICE PRESIDENT.

Existing Vice-Presidents of the Fellowship and such others as may from time to time be elected at an Annual General Meeting. They shall consist of those who have given exceptional service to the Fellowship.

10. COUNCIL OF REFERENCE.

The Council of Reference shall include all ex-Presidents and such others as may be elected at any Annual General Meeting. They shall be senior members of the Dental Profession and their election shall be subject to their signing the Doctrinal Basis of the Fellowship and they shall hold office so long as their views are in accordance with the Aims and Doctrinal Basis.

11. HONORARY TREASURER.

The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of the Fellowship as instructed by the Council. He/she shall prepare a statement of accounts for each Annual General Meeting that has been reviewed in accordance with applicable charity law.

12. GIFT AID CO-ORDINATOR

The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for encouraging Gift Aid and similar giving. The Administrator shall keep such records as required by HM Revenue and Customs. The Administrator and Honorary Treasurer shall jointly ensure that the business of the Fellowship is conducted in accordance with the Charities Act requirements, with appropriate advice from the Honorary Accountant. The Honorary Treasurer shall prepare the annual Trustees' Report to the Charities Commission.

13. GENERAL SECRETARY.

The General Secretary, assisted by such Assistant Secretaries as may be elected at the Annual General Meeting, shall be responsible for the general running of the Fellowship and shall also keep an accurate record of all Council Meetings.

14. MISSION PARTNER SECRETARY.

The Mission Partner Secretary shall be responsible for keeping an accurate record of all business transacted at Mission Partner Committee meetings, reporting such business for confirmation by the Council.

15. EDITOR.

The Editor shall be responsible for editing the journal of the Fellowship.

16. CONFERENCE SECRETARY.

The Conference Secretary shall be responsible for organising the Annual Conference and submitting a report to Council at their meeting immediately following each conference.

17. OTHER OFFICERS.

Such other officers, who shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting, as Council may recommend.

18. TRUSTEES.

a) The Trustees of the Fellowship shall be the following Officers:

President
General Secretary
Honorary Treasurer
At least one Vice-President (to be nominated by Council)

b) They shall meet at least once per year.

19. COMMITTEES.

a) The Council may appoint such sub-committees as are necessary for the efficient running of the Fellowship.

b) The President and General Secretary shall be ex-officio-members of all committees.

c) Members, other than Council Members, may be invited by Council to serve on sub-committees.

20. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

A general meeting of members shall be held annually, preferably during the Annual Conference. To receive reports, elect Officers and Council members, and transact any other business. Notice of such meeting together with reports and an agenda of business to be transacted, shall be sent to all members at least fourteen days before the date thereof.

21. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

An Extra-ordinary General Meeting may be called either on instruction from the Council or written application by 25 or more members. Notice of any such meeting, and details of business to be transacted, shall be sent to all members by the General Secretary of the Fellowship at least fourteen days before the date thereof.

22. QUORUM.

The Quorum at the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting shall consist of 15 members or one tenth of the total full membership, whichever is the less.

23. AMENDMENTS.

No alterations shall be made in this constitution except by agreement of three-quarters of those present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting. Any proposed amendment may either be recommended by the Council or given in writing to the General Secretary and signed by at least 25 members. Such amendments shall not become effective until 28 days after the date of the meeting.