# DRAFT CONSTITUTION, 28.11.99

# CONSTITUTION

adopted on the 65 th day of Mask 2000

## A Name

The name of the Association is CROSS STREET CHAPEL MANCHESTER ("the Charity")

## **B** Administration

Subject to the matters set out below the Charity and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by the members of the Executive Committee constituted by clause H of this constitution ("the Executive Committee")

# C Objects

The Charity's objects ("the objects") are

The promotion of pure religion in the Worship of God and the service of human kind in the spirit of Jesus Christ. No doctrinal test shall be imposed upon its Minister(s), its members or others who attend its services

## D Powers

In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the Executive Committee may exercise the following powers

- (i) power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Executive Committee shall not undertake any substantial trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law
- (ii) power to employ such staff (who shall not be members of the Executive Committee) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation for staff and their dependents.
- (iii) power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them
- (iv) power to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the objects
- (v) power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Executive Committee may think fit
- (vi) power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects

# E Membership

- (1) Membership of the Charity shall be open to any person over the age of 18 interested in furthering the objects, who has paid the annual subscription laid down from time to time by the Executive committee (such subscription may be made through an envelope offertory or other method approved by the Executive Committee) and who shall apply and be accepted by the Executive Committee, which shall have discretion to reject an application for reasons which it deems good and sufficient.
- (2) Junior Membership shall be open to any person under the age of 18 at a reduced subscription as approved from time to time by the Executive Committee on the same condition as Full Members save that they shall not be eligible to vote at General Meetings nor be eligible for election to the Executive Committee.
- (3) Every member (other than Junior Members) shall have one vote.
- (4) An up-to-date list of members shall be maintained by the Secretary or other designated person.
- (5) A member shall cease to be a member if
  - (i) he/she has given written notice of resignation to the Secretary

OR

(ii) the Executive Committee, by a 2/3 majority of those present and voting, votes to terminate the membership of the individual: provided that the individual concerned shall have the right to be accompanied by a friend, before a final decision is made.

#### F Void

## G Honorary Officers

At the Annual General Meeting of the Congregation the members shall elect from amongst themselves a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Warden, who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting.

#### H Executive Committee

- (1) The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than 8 nor more than 14 members being:
  - (a) the honorary officers specified in the preceding clause;
  - (b) not less than 4 and not more than 10 members elected at the Annual General Meeting who shall hold office from the conclusion of the meeting.
- (2) The Executive Committee may in addition appoint not more than 3 co-opted members but so that no-one may be appointed as a co-opted member, if, as a result, more than one third of the members of the Executive Committee would be co-opted members. Each appointment of a co-opted member shall be made at an ordinary meeting of the Executive Committee or at a special meeting of the Executive Committee called under clause K, and shall take effect from the end of that meeting unless the appointment is to fill a place which has not then

been vacated in which case the appointment shall run from the date when the post becomes vacant.

- (3) All the members of the Executive Committee shall retire from office together at the end of the Annual General Meeting next after the date on which they came into office but they may be re-elected.
- (4) The proceedings of the Executive Committee shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among their numbers or by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment or qualification of a member.
- (5) Nobody shall be appointed as a member of the Executive Committee who is aged under 18 (see Clause E) or who would if appointed be disqualified under the provision of the following clause.
- (6) No person shall be entitled to act as a member of the Executive Committee whether on a first or on any subsequent entry into office until after signing in the minute book of the Executive Committee a declaration of acceptance and of willingness to act in the trusts of the Charity.
- (7) The Minister or Ministers shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Executive Committee but shall not be a Trustee nor entitled to vote.

# I Determination of Membership of Executive Committee

A member of the Executive Committee shall cease to hold office if he or she:

- (1) is disqualified from acting as a member of the Executive Committee by virtue of Section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);
- (2) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;
- (3) is absent without the permission of the Executive Committee from all their meetings held within a period of 6 months and the Executive Committee resolve that his or her office be vacated; or
- (4) notifying to the Executive Committee a wish to resign (but only if at least 3 members of the Executive Committee will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect).

# J Executive Committee Members not to be personally interested

No member of the Executive Committee shall acquire any interest in property belonging to the Charity (otherwise than as a trustee for the Charity) or receive remuneration or be interested (other than as a member for the Executive Committee) in any contract entered into by the Executive Committee.

# K Meetings and proceedings of the Executive Committee

(1) The Executive Committee shall hold at least two ordinary meetings each year. A special meeting may be called at any time or by any two members of the Executive Committee upon not less than 4 days' notice being given to the other members of the Executive Committee of the matters to be discussed but if the

matters include an appointment of a co-opted member then not less than 21 days' notice shall be given.

- (2) The Chairman shall act as chairman at meetings of the Executive Committee. If the Chairman is absent from any meeting, the members of the Executive Committee present shall choose one of their number to be chairman of the meeting before any other business is transacted.
- (3) There shall be a quorum, when at least one third of the number of members of the Executive Committee for the time being or three members of the Executive Committee, whichever is the greater, are present at a meeting.
- (4) Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting on the question but in the case of equality of votes the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- (5) The Executive Committee shall keep minutes in books kept for the purpose, of the proceedings at meetings of the Executive Committee and any subcommittee.
- (6) The Executive committee may from time to time make and alter rules for the conduct of their business, the summoning and conduct of their meetings and the custody of documents. No rule may be made which is inconsistent with this constitution.
- (7) The Executive Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees consisting of three or more members of the Executive Committee for the purpose of making any inquiry or supervising or performing any function which in the opinion of the Executive Committee would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee; provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committee shall be fully and promptly reported to the Executive Committee.

# L Receipts and Expenditure

- (1) The funds of the Charity, including all donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Executive Committee in the name of the Charity at such bank as the Executive Committee shall from time to time decide. All cheques exceeding £1500 drawn on the account must be signed by at least two members of the Executive Committee. Otherwise one signature shall suffice.
- (2) The funds belonging to the Charity shall be applied only in furtherance of its objects.

# M Property

All land or investments held for the benefit of the charity shall be held in trust by the Trustees of Cross Street Chapel (Charity Rgn. 236201) as Managing Trustees.

#### N Accounts

The Executive Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to:

- (1) the keeping of accounting records for the Charity:
- (2) the preparation of annual statements of account for the Charity:
- (3) the auditing or independent examination of the statements of account for the Charity (the auditor or independent examiner shall not be a member of the Executive Committee but may otherwise be a properly qualified member of the Congregation)
- (4) the transmission of the statements of account of the Charity to the Commission.
- (5) The financial year of the Congregation shall be from 1 January to 31 December.

# O Annual Report

The Executive Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act (1993) (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regards to the preparation of an annual report and its transmission to the Commission.

## P Annual Return

The Executive Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to the preparation of an annual return and its transmission to the Commission.

## Q Annual General Meeting

- (1) There shall be an annual general meeting of the Charity which shall be held in the month of March in each year or as soon as practicable thereafter.
- (2) Every annual general meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee. The secretary shall give at least 14 days' notice of the annual general meeting by notice in the Chapel and advertisement in the Chapel Calendar. All the members of the Charity of at least 12 months' standing shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting save that junior members (see Clause E(2)) shall not be entitled to vote.
- (3) The Executive Committee shall present to each annual general meeting the report and accounts of the Charity for the preceding year.
- (4) Nomination for election to the Executive Committee must be made by members of the Charity in writing and must be in the hands of the Secretary of the Executive Committee at least 14 days before the annual general meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies, election shall be by ballot.

# R Special General Meetings

- (1) The Executive Committee may call a special general meeting of the Charity at any time. If at least ten members request such a meeting in writing, stating the business to be considered, the secretary shall call such a meeting. At least 21 days' notice must be given. The notice must state the business to be discussed.
- (2) In the event of a pulpit vacancy the responsibility for nominating a Minister shall rest with the Executive Committee and the nominee, if approved by two thirds of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened under R(1) above, shall be appointed.

# S Procedure at General Meetings

- (1) The secretary or other person specially appointed by the Executive Committee shall keep a full record of proceedings at every general meeting of the Charity.
- (2) There shall be a quorum when at least one tenth of the number of members of the Charity are present at any general meeting.

#### T Notices

Any notice required to be served on any member of the Charity shall be in writing and shall be served by the Secretary of the Executive Committee on any member either personally or by sending it through the post in a prepared letter addressed to the said member at his or her last known address in the United Kingdom and any letter so sent shall be deemed to have been received within 7 days of posting.

## U Alteration to the Constitution

- (1) 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 a general meeting. The notice of the General meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.
- (2) No amendment may be made to Clause A, Clause C, Clause J, Clause V or this clause without the prior consent in writing of the Commission.
- (3) No amendments may be made which would have the effect of making the Charity cease to be a charity at law.
- (4) The Executive Committee should promptly send to the Commission a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

#### V Dissolution

If the Executive Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Charity it shall call a meeting of all members of the Charity, 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 Executive Committee shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Charity. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be transferred to the TRUSTEES OF CROSS STREET CHAPEL (Charity Registration No. 236201) or failing that to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the Charity as the

members of the Charity may determine. A copy of the statement of accounts, or account and statement, for the final accounting period of the Charity must be sent to the Commission.

This amended constitution was adopted on 5 March 2000 by the persons whose signatures appear at the bottom of this document.

Signed .....