

LOVE STREATHAM

CONSTITUTION

1. OBJECTS and PURPOSE

1.1 Purpose

The mission of Love Streatham is to unite the body of Christ in Streatham in order that the community of Streatham may benefit through the effective demonstration and declaration of God's love by the Member Churches.

1.2 Nature of Love Streatham's mission

The mission of Love Streatham may be carried out by such means and such projects as the Member Churches shall through the Forum of Love Streatham from time to time determine, which may include (but will not be limited to):

- Social action (e.g. money and debt advisory service)
- Urban regeneration
- Development of a Street Pastors scheme
- Appropriate ecumenical fellowship and worship, prayer and intercession.
- Evangelistic initiatives
- Jointly organised events and ministries
- Assistance of local people in need in practical ways (e.g. gardening for elderly or infirm people)

1.3 Liaison with other local bodies

Where appropriate Love Streatham will liaise and work with local community bodies in Streatham and their representatives, including (but not limited to) the police, councillors and local interest groups.

1.4 Charitable intent

Love Streatham exists for the benefit of the community of Streatham. It is intended that Love Streatham shall be a charity for the advancement of religion (according to the Christian doctrine and practices of the constituent Churches) for public benefit and be capable (if deemed appropriate) of registration with the Charity Commission as a charity.

2. AREA

Love Streatham aims to serve the neighbourhood of Streatham. In this document, “Streatham” means the area shown in the map attached as Appendix 1

3. MEMBERSHIP *and* PARTICIPATION – Criteria

3.1 Eligibility for membership

Membership of Love Streatham (as a Full Member or Associate Member) shall be open to any local church which has its normal place of worship in Streatham and which

- (a) is affiliated to or is part of a church or association of churches which is a full member of Churches Together in England; or
- (b) acknowledges its acceptance of the doctrines contained in the Evangelical Alliance Basis of Faith; or
- (c) on principle has no creedal statements in its tradition, e.g. Quakers, provided that it is acceptable to 75% in number of the full Member Churches and manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures.

3.2 Categories of Membership

Love Streatham has two categories of membership, Full Membership and Associate Membership.

3.3 Full Membership

Love Streatham encourages all joining Member Churches to be Full Members. Each Full Member Church shall

- (a) prior to or on becoming a Full Member acknowledge in writing its assent to the Vision and Values Statement contained in Appendix 2.
- (b) appoint two suitably qualified (in accordance with Clause 5) of its own members to act as its representatives (“Church Representatives”) on the Forum (and, if applicable, to the Steering Group).
- (c) actively encourage its members to take part in working groups or ministry teams set up by Love Streatham.
- (d) support Love Streatham through advertising Love Streatham events, providing details of its own events for advertisement by Love Streatham, and prayer, including intercession during public worship.

(e) pay to Love Streatham an annual subscription in accordance with Clause 12.

3.4 Associate Membership

Each Associate Member Church shall

- (a) prior to or on becoming an Associate Member state in writing to which of the provisions of the Vision and Values Statement it can currently commit itself.
- (b) actively encourage its members to take part in working groups or ministry teams set up by Love Streatham.
- (c) support Love Streatham through advertising Love Streatham events, providing details of its own events for advertisement by Love Streatham, and prayer, including intercession during public worship.
- (d) on becoming an Associate Member and subsequently whenever so required by the Forum of Love Streatham demonstrate its openness to future further engagement with Love Streatham.

3.5 Other churches' participation in Love Streatham projects

Love Streatham will actively seek to involve Trinitarian Christian churches in Streatham that are not Members of Love Streatham to participate in, support and provide personnel for specific projects proposed, initiated or supported by Love Streatham.

3.6 Interpretation of the term "church"

Any Trinitarian Christian organisation, community or body which

- (a) is based in Streatham and has among its purposes mission to the community of Streatham;
 - (b) is not a church or a group under the direct authority of a church;
 - (c) (though not a church) is able to satisfy the Love Streatham membership requirements it would have to satisfy if it were a church;
 - (d) the Forum of Love Streatham (acting in its unfettered discretion) judges would contribute to the effectiveness of Love Streatham
- may apply for membership in its own right. In this constitution the word "church" shall be construed (*mutatis mutandis*) accordingly.

4. ADMISSION to MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Founder Members

The founder Members of Love Streatham are

Full Members:

Immanuel & St. Andrew's Parish Church

Southcroft Church (local *Ichthus* congregation)

Streatham Baptist Church

Streatham United Reformed Church

Associate Members

4.2 Application for Membership by other churches

Any other church satisfying the criteria above and seeking to join Love Streatham may apply to do so in accordance with the procedure set out in Appendix 3 or such other procedure as the Forum may from time to time substitute in its place.

5. APPOINTMENT of PERSONNEL

5.1 Officers

The officers of Love Streatham ("the Officers") shall be the following:

Chairperson

Honorary Secretary

Honorary Treasurer

5.2 The first Officers shall be the persons named below, who shall serve until the first Annual Meeting of the Forum during the month of September 2010.

First Officers:

Chairperson: Rev. Sr. Elizabeth Shearcroft, C.A., Vicar of Immanuel & St. Andrew's Parish Church

Honorary Secretary: Derek (Del) Thomas, Streatham Baptist Church

Honorary Treasurer: Claire Mathys, Streatham Baptist Church

5.3 Subsequent appointments of Officers shall be made at the Annual Meeting of the Forum. Each Officer shall serve for an initial period of one year and may be re-elected if willing to serve for a further period or further periods of one year.

5.4 A Full Member Church shall have the right (and duty) on becoming such Full Member (and from time to time thereafter) to appoint two Church Representatives in addition to any of its members who serve as Officers. No person may simultaneously be both an Officer and a Church Representative. Full Members may change their Church Representatives, subject to giving notice of that fact to the Steering Group.

5.5 Full Members acknowledge that the effectiveness of Love Streatham will depend on the commitment and effectiveness of those they select to represent them on the Forum and shall select their Church Representatives accordingly. Full Members shall use their best endeavours to ensure the active participation of their Church Representatives at the Forum.

5.6 No person may serve as an Officer or be appointed as a Church Representative or co-opted to the Forum under Clause 6.2 unless

(a) s/he is legally eligible to act as the trustee of a charity. Any person who ceases to be such shall thereupon cease to be a Church Representative of the Member Church concerned; and

(b) s/he acknowledges in writing personal assent to the Vision and Values Statement.

5.7 An Associate Member Church shall have no right to appoint Church Representatives but its members shall be eligible for co-option to the Forum.

5.8 The Forum may appoint a Personnel Resources Group to assist the Forum in promoting the mission of Love Streatham. The Forum shall require each person so appointed to acknowledge in writing personal assent to the Vision and Values Statement.

5.9 The Forum may from time to time appoint any of its Officers, Church Representatives or members of the Personnel Resources Group to undertake specific roles, as defined by the Forum, including (if so desired but not limited to) the following:

Deputy Chairperson

Minutes Secretary

Projects Secretary

Events Secretary

Liaison Person

6. THE FORUM

6.1 The Forum shall consist of the Officers and two Church Representatives from each Full Member Church, together with any co-opted in accordance with Clause 6.2.

6.2 The Forum may co-opt others in addition to the Officers and Church Representatives, such co-options not exceeding 25% of the total number of Church Representatives appointed by Full Member Churches. For the avoidance of doubt, a member of an Associate Church shall be eligible to be a co-opted to the Forum and shall be a member of the Forum having the same rights, powers and duties as a Church Representative, save that a co-opted person shall have no right to vote in the circumstances contemplated by Clause 9.

6.3 The Forum shall meet not less than ten times annually. The September meeting shall be the Annual Meeting at which the audited/inspected accounts shall be presented, officers elected, annual reports submitted and policy and initiatives for the year decided. Other meetings of the Forum shall be held as deemed desirable by the Officers, or at the written request of any three Church Representatives stating the reason for such request. At least two weeks notice in writing of any meeting of the Forum shall be given. The attendance by at least one Church Representative of at least half of the Full Member Churches together with at least *two* of the Officers shall constitute a quorum.

7. STEERING GROUP

7.1 Love Streatham shall have a Steering Group to act as an executive for the Forum, facilitate the effective running of Love Streatham and to serve as a reference point concerning Love Streatham for member churches, community bodies and other interested parties.

7.2. Until the Forum acts upon the power granted by Clause 7.3, the Forum itself shall be the Steering Group.

7.3 The Forum may appoint a Steering Group from among its members. In such event the Steering Group shall comprise the Officers of the Forum and up to six other members of the Forum, appointed by the Forum with regard to an appropriate representation of the various Christian traditions, denominations in membership, the gifts and skills needed by the Steering Group, and any representations made by Member Churches. Attendance by at least half of those eligible to be present shall constitute a quorum.

7.4 Meetings of the Steering Group shall take place as and when the Steering Group so determines, provided that it gives reasonable advance notice to its personnel and to the Forum of the arrangements and agenda for the meeting and provides adequate time for members of the Forum to make observations that can be considered at the Steering Group meeting.

8. OTHER PARTICIPATION at meetings of the Forum or Steering Group

The Officers may invite any other person(s) whom they judge appropriate to attend all or part of a meeting or meetings of the Forum or Steering Group in order to facilitate the effectiveness of that meeting or the aims of Love Streatham. The person(s) so invited may speak but not vote at such meetings.

9. VOTING

Recognising that the aims of Love Streatham will be achievable only where there is a common mind, the Forum and Steering Group will, wherever possible seek to attain consensus in decision-making. Where the Steering Group cannot achieve consensus it shall refer the matter concerned back to the Forum. Where the Forum itself cannot achieve consensus, a matter may be put to the vote and will be deemed to be carried if agreed by two-thirds of those eligible to vote who are present and do vote. The only persons eligible to vote are the Church Representatives present, casting their church's vote jointly. For the avoidance of doubt, each Full Member church shall have only one vote, to be cast jointly by its Church Representatives. If both its Church Representatives are present but cannot agree they shall be deemed to have abstained on behalf of their church.

10. WORKING GROUPS & MINISTRY TEAMS

10.1 The Forum may appoint (and may delegate any of its powers or functions to) working groups or ministry teams accountable to the Forum provided that the terms of any such delegation (including any conditions imposed) are recorded in the Forum's minutes.

10.2 The Forum may revoke or alter a delegation.

10.3 All acts and proceedings of any working groups or ministry teams must be fully and promptly reported to the Forum.

10.4 Whenever Love Streatham initiates a new project, the Forum will set up appropriate procedures for

(a) overseeing that project and

(b) ensuring that project personnel are subject to proper standards of accountability to Love Streatham and (in turn) to the churches supporting that project.

11. TRUSTEES

11.1 The Steering Group shall be the trustees of Love Streatham.

[11.2 The powers and duties of the trustees are set out in Appendix....]

[Comment: [this would be an abbreviated version of the Charity Commission document. As it is not envisaged that Love Streatham will own property or take leases, etc., such provisions may not be necessary.]

12. FINANCE

12.1 Each Full Member Church shall pay to Love Streatham the annual subscription of £25 or such other subscription as the Forum shall from time to time determine at its Annual Meeting.

12.2 The financial year shall be from March to April. Cheques shall require the signature of any two Officers. An honorary auditor/inspector shall be appointed at the Annual Meeting of the Forum.

13. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership of Love Streatham shall terminate automatically if:

- (1) the Member Church ceases to exist or to have its normal place of worship in Streatham;
- (2) the Member Church resigns by giving not less than 30 days written notice to the Forum (resignation taking effect at the expiry of such period of notice);
- (3) any sum due from the Member Church to Love Streatham is not paid in full within six months of it falling due;
- (4) the Member Church is removed from membership by a resolution of the Forum that it is in the best interests of Love Streatham that its membership is terminated. A resolution to remove a member church from membership may only be passed if:
 - (a) the Member Church has been given at least 21 days' notice in writing of the meeting of the Forum at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed;
 - (b) the Member Church has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.

14. DISQUALIFICATION AND REMOVAL OF PERSONNEL

An Officer, Church Representative, or co-opted member of the Forum shall cease to hold office if s/he:

- (1) is disqualified for acting as a Trustee by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);
- (2) ceases to be a member of the Member Church of Love Streatham s/he was representing;
- (3) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;
- (4) resigns by notice to Love Streatham;
- (5) (in the case of a Church Representative) is replaced by as Church Representative by the Member Church which appointed him or her;
- (6) is absent without the permission of the Forum from all its meetings held within a period of six consecutive months and the Forum resolves that his or her office be vacated.
- (7) is judged by the Forum to be unsatisfactory.

15. MINUTES

15.1 The Trustees shall keep minutes of all:

- (a) appointments of Officers
- (b) proceedings at meetings of the Forum and Steering Group and any meetings of the Trustees in their capacity as trustees.

15.2 The minutes shall state the full names (forename and surnames) of all present at the meeting and the capacity in which they attended the meeting, the decisions made at the meetings and where appropriate the reasons for such decisions.

15.3 The minutes of all meetings of the Steering Group (as well as the Forum) shall be circulated to all members of the Forum.

16. NOTICES

16.1 Any notice required by this constitution to be given to or by any person must be:

- (a) in writing; or
- (b) given using electronic communications.

16.2 Love Streatham may give any notice to a Member Church either:

- (a) by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the Member Church at its normal place of worship (or such other address as the Member Church may have notified to Love Streatham for the purpose) or
- (b) by leaving it at such address; or
- (c) by giving it using electronic communications to the Member's Church's address.

16.3 A Member Church whose Church Representative(s) attend any meeting of the Forum shall be deemed to have received notice of such meeting and of the purposes for which it was called.

16.4 Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. Proof that a notice contained in an electronic communication was sent in accordance with guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given.

16.5 A notice shall be deemed to be given 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted or, in the case of an electronic communication, 24 hours after it was sent (unless the sender has received notice that the communication has been delayed or failed)

15. AMENDMENTS to this CONSTITUTION

(Subject as elsewhere herein provided) any amendment to this constitution shall require the approval of 75% of the Full Member Churches, acting through their normal decision-making bodies. The written confirmation of the person who is the senior minister or senior lay person from the Full Member church concerned that such approval has duly been given by its normal decision-making body shall be deemed to be conclusive evidence of that fact.

APPENDIX 1 [= Map]

Appendix 2

Love Streatham Vision and Values Statement

Love Streatham **- showing God's love throughout Streatham**

A. Core values shared by the participating churches

- historical Christian Trinitarian orthodoxy as expressed in their historic creeds
- Jesus' summary of the Commandments, to love God supremely and others as ourselves (Matt.22:37-39; Mark 12:29-31)
- Jesus' Great Commission (Matt.28:18-20) to make disciples by teaching, baptising and establishing men, women and children in his truth
- Jesus' manifesto for mission (Luke 4:18-19) continued under the direction and power of the Holy Spirit by his people, the church in Streatham, for the benefit of the local community

B. The vision

- a 'one church, many congregations' expression of the life and ministry of the one Bride and Body of Christ in Streatham
- taking up our mission to Streatham and its people in the light of Jesus' manifesto for mission.

C. The values we share

- above all, we value an ongoing, growing, personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- we value the Bible as the Word of God, our final authority of faith and practice
- we value giving God all the glory with no self-promotion or self-seeking
- we value powerful works of God's grace in our communities
- we value remaining totally submissive to the Holy Spirit at all times and in all decision making, respecting at all times the uniqueness and validity of what God is doing in every part of the Body of Christ

- we value Christ-like leadership characterised by humility, a servant's spirit, courageous vision, evidenced by transparency, vulnerability and accountability
- we value the unity (as opposed uniformity) and health of the whole Body of Christ
- we value the existing ministries of local church leaders and congregations and seek to resource and encourage those consistent with the Love Streatham vision.
- we value all members of the Body of Christ regardless of their race, culture, gender, generation, or gifting
- we value the importance of repentance and reconciliation being evident among church leaders and the entire Body of Christ
- we value relationships which transcend organisational structure
- we value a long-term, sustainable movement more than isolated events
- we value corporate, Streatham -wide, worship and prayer as well as congregational and private prayer and worship
- we value the identification, establishment and development of a local leadership team to realise the vision.
- we value personal and corporate renewal/revival, evangelism/mission, and the transformation of our community
- we value a holistic approach to outreach, as demonstrated in Christ's own ministry.
- We value the importance of all people before a loving God who created humankind and seek to share the love of God with all to whom we minister

D. Desirable outcomes

- deepening trust between leaders
- increase in health and growth of congregations
- accountability
- increasing love and co-operation between congregations
- ability to respond with one voice to local issues and crises
- shared ownership of a vision to impact Streatham with the gospel of the Kingdom

Appendix 3 Love Streatham – Applications for Membership

1. Decisions about membership will be made by the Full Member churches, acting on the advice of the Forum.
2. A church seeking to explore the possibility of membership should speak to a member of the Forum. The Steering Group arrange for informal discussions to take place between the leaders of the church and Love Streatham personnel.
3. Following such informal discussion, a church seeking to become a **Full Member** of Love Streatham should write to the Steering Group,
 - (a) stating its wish to become a Full Member;
 - (b) stating the criterion under which it considers itself eligible to become a Member;
 - (c) stating its assent to the Vision and Values Statement, commenting as appropriate;
 - (d) stating the names of its proposed representatives and their roles in the church
 - (e) giving such further information as Love Streatham has previously notified it will be needed to assess the application.

- 3.1 a church seeking to become an **Associate Member** of Love Streatham should write to the Steering Group,
- (a) stating its wish to become an Associate Member;
 - (b) stating the criterion under which it considers itself eligible to become a Member;
 - (c) stating to which of the provisions of the Vision and Values Statement it can currently commit itself.
 - (d) explaining how it proposes to contribute to Love Streatham and declaring its openness to future further engagement with Love Streatham.
 - (e) giving such further information as Love Streatham has previously notified it will be needed to assess the application.

4. Following consideration of the application by the Steering Group, the Steering Group will invite the applicant church to a meeting formally to discuss the application. The Steering Group may invite observations from Member Churches on the applicant and application received.

5. Following such discussion, the Steering Group will advise the Forum whether it considers the applicant church to have satisfied the eligibility criteria for membership of the appropriate category and of the contribution it considers the applicant church would be likely to make. The Forum will, in the light of such advice, decide either
- (a) to recommend the current Full Members of Love Streatham to accept the applicant as a Member or
 - (b) to reject the application.

6. If the Forum decides to recommend acceptance, it will notify *all Members* in writing of such fact. Each Full Member must notify the Steering Group within 30 days of such notification whether it agrees that the applicant church be admitted as a Member. Any Full Member Church which fails to notify the Steering Group within that time will be deemed to have agreed with the Forum's recommendation.

7. As soon as possible thereafter, the Steering Group will notify the applicant church of the Member Churches' decision. In the case of a decision to reject an application, the notification will state the reasons for the decision. The rejection of an application will not preclude an applicant from making a further application at a later date.

8. Where an applicant is accepted as a Member,
(a) it shall immediately upon acceptance notify the Forum of
-the postal address, telephone number and email address to which communications to it as a Member Church should be sent; and
-the postal addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of its Representatives
-in the case of a Full Member it shall pay the subscription within 30 days of notification of its acceptance as a Full Member