

Ahavah Christian Community Constitution

An unincorporated Association

Ratified 23rd October 2023

1. Name

The name of the group shall be **Ahavah Christian Community**

2. Aims

The objects of Ahavah Christian Community is the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public through social, community, pastoral, recreational, missionary and evangelistic activities through, but without limitation of, the provision of Christian hospitality, the provision of worship, prayer, and Christian teaching, and the planting of micro communities and small groups.

3. Membership

There will be two types of membership: Voting Committee Members, and Non-voting Community Members

Voting Committee Members will consist of leadership members of Ahavah Christian Community. These members will be responsible for the Spiritual direction of the community and will work in close relationship with any trustees to ensure that the aims of the association are being met. Voting Committee Members will become members by an interview process of the current leadership team and subsequent vote (by a quorum of 75%). Voting Committee Members may serve as trustees. Voting Committee Members must adhere to, and affirm, the Ahavah Christian Community Statement of Faith.

Non-voting Community Members will consist of those who engage with the community on a regular basis through attendance of micro communities, house church, and small groups. These members will be consulted before any major votes or changes to the community, but will not be responsible for decisions made on behalf of the Association and, therefore, hold no liability.

A list of all members will be kept by the membership secretary.

Ceasing to be a member

Members may resign at any time in writing to the secretary.

Any offensive behaviour, including racist, sexist or inflammatory remarks, will not be permitted. Anyone behaving in an offensive way or breaking the equal opportunities policy may be asked not to attend further meetings or to resign from the group if an apology is not given or the behaviour is repeated. The individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the management committee, accompanied by a friend, before a final decision is made.

4. Equal Opportunities

Ahavah Christian Community will not discriminate on the grounds of sex, race (including colour, ethnic or national origin), sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious or political belief, pregnancy or maternity, marital status or age.

5. Officers and committee

The business of the group will be carried out by the Committee voting members. The Committee will meet as necessary and not less than four times a year.

The Committee will consist of a minimum of 3 members.

The officers' roles are as follows:

- Chair, who shall chair both general and committee meetings
- Secretary, who shall be responsible for the taking of minutes and the distribution of all papers, and be responsible for keeping records of members
- Treasurer who shall be responsible for maintaining accounts

In the event of an officer standing down during the year a replacement will be elected by the next General Meeting of voting members.

Any committee member not attending a meeting without apology for three months will be contacted by the committee and asked if they wish to resign.

The Committee meetings will be open to any member of Ahavah Christian Community wishing to attend, who may speak but not vote.

6. Meetings

6.1. Annual General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held within fifteen months of the previous AGM.

All members will be notified in writing at least 3 weeks before the date of the meeting, giving the venue, date and time.

Nominations for the committee may be made to the Secretary before the meeting, or at the meeting.

The quorum for the AGM will be 50% of the voting membership or 3 members, whichever is the greater number.

At the AGM:-

- The Committee will present a report of the work of Ahavah Christian Community over the year.
- The Committee will present the accounts of Ahavah Christian Community for the previous year.
- The officers and Committee for the next year will be elected.
- Any proposals given to the Secretary at least 7 days in advance of the meeting will be discussed.

6.2 Special General Meetings

The Secretary will call a Special General Meeting at the request of the majority of the committee or at least eight other members giving a written request to the Chair or Secretary stating the reason for their request.

The meeting will take place within twenty-one days of the request.

All members will be given two weeks' notice of such a meeting, giving the venue, date, time and agenda, and notice may be by telephone, email or post.

The quorum for the Special General Meeting will be 50% of the membership or 3 voting members, whichever is the greater number.

6.3 General Meetings

General Meetings are open to all members and will be held at least once every a year or more often if necessary.

All members will be given two weeks' notice of such a meeting, giving the venue, date, time and agenda, and notice may be by telephone, email or post.

The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 50% of the membership or 3 voting members, whichever is the greater number.

6.4 Committee Meetings

Committee meetings may be called by the Chair or Secretary. Committee members must receive notice of meetings at least 7 days before the meeting.

The quorum for Committee meetings is three Committee members.

7. Rules of Procedure for meetings

All questions that arise at any meeting will be discussed openly and the meeting will seek to find general agreement that everyone present can agree to.

If a consensus cannot be reached a vote will be taken and a decision will be made by a simple majority of members present. If the number of votes cast on each side is equal, the chair of the meeting shall have an additional casting vote.

8. Finances

An account will be maintained on behalf of the Association at a bank agreed by the committee. Three cheque signatories will be nominated by the Committee (one to be the Treasurer). The signatories must not be related nor members of the same household.

All payments will be signed by two of the signatories.

- For cheque payments, the signatories will sign the cheque.
- For other payments (such as BACS payments, cash withdrawals, debit card payments or cash payments), a requisition note will be signed by two signatories, and held by the treasurer.

Records of income and expenditure will be maintained by the Treasurer and a financial statement given at each meeting.

All money raised by or on behalf of Ahavah Christian Community is only to be used to further the aims of the group, as specified in item 2 of this constitution.

9. Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the constitution may only be made at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

Any proposal to amend the constitution must be given to the Secretary in writing. The proposal must then be circulated with the notice of meeting.

Any proposal to amend the constitution will require a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.

10. Dissolution

If a meeting, by simple majority, decides that it is necessary to close down the group it may call a Special General Meeting to do so. The sole business of this meeting will be to dissolve the group.

If it is agreed to dissolve the group, all remaining money and other assets, once outstanding debts have been paid, will be donated to a local charitable organisation. The organisation will be agreed at the meeting which agrees the dissolution.

In the event that the unincorporated association is required to register with the charity commission, or decides to otherwise incorporate, any funds would be retained by the treasurer

until such time as a new account was set up for the incorporated group. Once funds had been transferred to the new group, the unincorporated association would be formally dissolved.

This constitution was agreed at the Inaugural General Meeting of the Ahavah Christian Community on:

Date 23/10/2023

Name and position in group Sarah Starplehn Trustee & chair

Signed [Signature]

Name and position in group Lynda Wade Secretary & Trustee

Signed [Signature]

Name and position in group James Edgell Trustee and Treasurer

Signed [Signature]

Name and position in group Stephanie Edgell Trustee & Committee Member

Signed [Signature]

Name and position in group NICHOLAS WADE TRUSTEE & COMMITTEE MEMBER

Signed [Signature]

Name and position in group

Signed

Name and position in group

Signed

Name and position in group

Signed