

Constitution of the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion

This constitution was dated 20 September 1962 in its original form. The original preface is included as an appendix and later amendments were ratified as indicated below. In 2019 and 2020 the Council also amended and approved a revised constitution in the process of repurposing of the UK charity in the new form of a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). That constitution is given in the 'UK charity constitution' pdf, also downloadable on the website.

1. Name

1.1. The name of the Fellowship shall be 'The Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion'.

2. Aims

2.1. The aims of the Fellowship, as stated below, rest on the conviction that a strong gospel witness to the great biblical and Reformation principles (as set out in the Statement of Faith and Declarations) is essential for the life and health of the Anglican Communion, within the wider context of seeking first God's kingdom and the building up of his people. These aims are:

2.1.1. *to promote* the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through upholding the supreme authority of Scripture in matters of both faith and conduct throughout the Anglican Communion at every level of its life and witness;

2.1.2. *to stand* with evangelical Anglicans in a commitment to biblical obedience, particularly in the areas of Christian discipleship, servant leadership, faithful conduct, church renewal, and mission in the world;

2.1.3. *to establish* fellowship and unity in the Apostolic faith among evangelical Anglicans and to build strong relationships both locally and globally;

2.1.4. *to be* a resource for developing and encouraging biblically faithful witness and leadership in all spheres of life, especially by

2.1.4.1. taking counsel together on important issues, and

2.1.4.2. articulating gospel distinctives in the areas of faith, order, life and mission by publications and other media.

3. Statement of Faith

3.1. As members of the Anglican Communion within the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church, we affirm the faith, which is uniquely revealed in the holy Scriptures, set forth in the catholic creeds, and of which The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion are a general exposition. Standing in the Reformed tradition, we lay special emphasis on the grace of God – his unmerited mercy – as expressed in the doctrines which follow:

3.1.1. God as the Source of Grace. In continuity with the teaching of Holy Scripture and the Christian creeds, *we worship* one God in three Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God has created all things, and us in his own image; all life, truth, holiness, and beauty come from him. His Son Jesus Christ, full God and fully man, was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, rose and ascended to reign in glory.

3.1.2. The Bible as the Revelation of Grace. *We receive* the canonical books of the Old and New Testament as the wholly reliable revelation and record of God's grace, given by the Holy Spirit as the

true word of God written. The Bible has been given to lead us to salvation, to be the ultimate rule for Christian faith and conduct, and the supreme authority by which the Church must ever reform itself and judge its traditions.

3.1.3. The Atonement as the Work of Grace. *We believe* that Jesus Christ came to save lost sinners. Though sinless, he bore our sins, and their judgment, on the cross, thus accomplishing our salvation. By raising Christ bodily from the dead, God vindicated him as Lord and Saviour and proclaimed his victory. Salvation is in Christ alone.

3.1.4. The Church as the Community of Grace. *We hold* that the Church is God's covenant community, whose members, drawn from every nation, having been justified by grace through faith, inherit the promises made to Abraham and fulfilled in Christ. As a fellowship of the Spirit manifesting his fruit and exercising his gifts, it is called to worship God grow in grace, and bear witness to him and his Kingdom. God's Church is one body and must ever strive to discover and experience that unity in truth and love which it has in Christ, especially through its confession of the apostolic faith and in its observance of the dominical Sacraments.

3.1.5. The Sacraments as the Signs and Seals of Grace. *We maintain* that the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion proclaim the gospel as effective and visible signs of our justification and sanctification, and as true means of God's grace to those who repent and believe. Baptism is the sign of forgiveness of sin, the gift of the Spirit, new birth to righteousness and entry into the fellowship of the People of God. Holy Communion is the sign of the living, nourishing presence of Christ through his Spirit to his people; the memorial of his one, perfect completed and all-sufficient sacrifice for sin, from whose achievement all may benefit but in whose atoning self-offering none can share; and an occasion to offer through him our sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise.

3.1.6. Ministry as the Stewardship of Grace. *We share*, as the people of God, in a royal priesthood common to the whole Church, and in the community of the Suffering Servant. Our mission is the proclamation of the gospel by the preaching of the word, as well as by caring for the needy, challenging evil and promoting justice and a more responsible use of the world's resources. It is the particular vocation of bishops and presbyters, together with deacons, to build up the body of Christ in truth and love, as pastors, teachers, and servants of the servants of God.

3.1.7. Christ's Return as the Triumph of Grace. *We look forward* expectantly to the final manifestation of Christ's grace and glory when he comes again to raise the dead, judge the world, vindicate his chosen and bring his Kingdom to its eternal fulfilment in the new heaven and the new earth.

4. Membership, and Assent to the Aims, Statement of Faith, and Declarations

4.1. The members of the Fellowship shall consist of (i) those national or regional groups of Anglican evangelicals (hereinafter called 'group members') and (ii) those individual Anglican evangelicals (hereinafter called 'individual members') whom the Council shall at its discretion admit to membership.

4.2. Each member of EFAC (whether group or individual member), upon admission to membership, and each (i) Trustee, (ii) member of the Council, and (iii) member of the Executive Committee, upon assuming or re-assuming office, shall signify in writing their agreement with the Aims and Statement of Faith set out in sections 2 and 3 above, respectively, and the following additional declarations:

4.2.1. *We gladly proclaim and submit to* the unique and universal Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, humanity's only Saviour from sin, judgement and hell, who lived the life we could not live and

died the death that we deserve. By his atoning death and glorious resurrection, he secured the redemption of all who come to him in repentance and faith.

4.2.2. *We acknowledge* God's creation of humankind as male and female and the unchangeable standard of Christian marriage between one man and one woman as the proper place for sexual intimacy and the basis of the family. We repent of our failures to maintain this standard and call for a renewed commitment to lifelong fidelity in marriage and abstinence for those who are not married.

4.3. No group may be admitted to membership unless, in the opinion of the Council, it is representative of the evangelical Anglicans in its particular region or nation.

4.4. No individual may be admitted to membership if there is in the nation or region in which he normally resides either a group member or a group which is in the opinion of the Council eligible for group membership.

4.5. Unless and until the Council otherwise resolve there shall be no limit to the number of members.

5. Council

5.1. The affairs of the Fellowship shall be administered and managed by the Council.

5.2. The Council shall consist of at least one representative (but no more than 2 representatives) from each group member elected by resolution of the group member's governing body.

5.3. The Council may at any time co-opt any person as a Councillor either to fill a casual vacancy or by way of addition to the Council, provided that the number of co-opted Councillors at any time shall not exceed one quarter of the total number of Councillors for the time being.

5.4. Each Councillor shall be entitled to one vote.

5.5. The Council shall meet at least once in every 5 years.

5.6. Members of the Council who find themselves unable to attend a meeting of the Council may nominate an alternate with the approval of the Chair and General Secretary.

5.7. The Minutes of Council meetings shall be sent to all (group and individual) members.

5.8. The Council shall have power from time to time to elect an Executive

Committee which shall ordinarily consist of:

5.8.1. A President;

5.8.2. An Executive Committee Chair;

5.8.3. A General Secretary;

5.8.4. A Treasurer; and

5.8.5. Up to six individuals (so far as possible representing Anglican evangelicals in all of the regions of the world).

5.9. Members of the Executive shall hold office for a period of up to 5 years and shall be eligible for reappointment on such terms and with such duties as the Council shall determine.

5.10. All members of the Council's Executive Committee shall also be *ex officio* members of the Council. See below para. 6.3.

5.11. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution the Council may make such regulations as it thinks fit for the proper conduct of its own affairs and the affairs of the Fellowship. Copies of any such regulations currently in force must be made available to any member of the Council on request.

6. Executive Committee

6.1. The Council may delegate the management of its affairs, upon such terms as it thinks fit, to an Executive Committee.

6.2. Members of the Executive Committee who find themselves unable to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee may nominate an alternate with the approval of the Chair and General Secretary.

6.3. All members of the Executive Committee shall be *ex officio* members of the Council.

6.4. The Executive Committee may appoint sub-committees at its discretion.

6.5. The Minutes of Executive Committee meetings shall be sent to all members of the Council.

6.6. The General Secretary's duties and terms of appointment shall be determined by the Executive Committee, to whom the General Secretary shall be immediately responsible.

7. Patrons

7.1. The Council may from time to time invite widely acknowledged evangelical Anglican leaders to be patrons of the Fellowship, and thereby to lend it their name, support and counsel. Patrons are free to attend and speak, but not vote, at Council meetings, and shall receive all the literature which is sent to the Council. Their appointment shall be reviewed every five years.

8. Trustees

8.1. The income and property of the Fellowship is held in trust in England by a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("CIO") with the registered charity number 212314.

8.2. The affairs of the CIO are governed by English law and managed by Trustees who are obliged to further the purposes of the CIO in accordance with English law and the constitution of the CIO.

8.3. The Trustees are appointed by the CIO in accordance with its constitution.

8.4. The Trustees are obliged to comply with the requirements of English law with regard to the keeping of accounting records, to the preparation and scrutiny of statements of account and to the preparation of annual reports and returns.

8.5. Two Trustees elected by resolution of the Trustees shall be *ex officio* members of the Executive Committee.

9. Finance

9.1. The Executive Committee, in consultation with the Trustees, shall approve an annual budget.

9.2. The Executive Committee may not enter into a transaction of a financial nature (including the borrowing of money, the incurring of expenditure, the acquisition of property, the acquisition, investment or disposal of funds and the undertaking of any contractual or other financial

obligations) without the prior written approval of the Trustees. Any unapproved transaction of a financial nature shall be null and void.

9.3. The Executive Committee shall present annual reports and returns to the Council.

10. Meetings

10.1. Calling meetings

10.1.1. Regular meetings of the Council and Executive Committee shall be called by the Chair of the Executive and the General Secretary in consultation.

10.1.2. Any six members of the Council and any four members of the Executive Committee may call an emergency meeting of the Council and Executive Committee, respectively, on at least 14 days' notice.

10.1.3. Subject to that, the Chair of the Executive Committee and the General Secretary, in consultation, shall decide how meetings are to be called, and what notice is required.

10.2. Chairing of meetings

10.2.1. Meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee shall be chaired by the Chair of the Executive Committee.

10.2.2. If the Chair of the Executive is unwilling to preside or is not present within 10 minutes after the time of the meeting, those present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.

10.3. Procedure at meetings

10.3.1. No decision shall be taken at a meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the decision is taken. The quorum is nine at meetings of the Council and four, at meetings of the Executive Committee.

10.3.2. Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of those eligible to vote.

10.3.3. In the case of an equality of votes, the person who chairs the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

10.4. Participation in meetings by electronic means

10.4.1. A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.

10.4.2. Any person participating at a meeting by suitable electronic means shall qualify as being present at the meeting.

10.4.3. Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including chairing and the taking of minutes.

11. Taking of decisions

11.1. Any decision of the Council or Executive Committee may be taken either

11.1.1. at a meeting of the Council or Executive Committee, respectively; or

11.1.2. by resolution in writing or electronic form, which may comprise either a single document or several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of which the members have signified their agreement.

12. Use of electronic communications

12.1. The General Secretary shall provide within 21 days on request a hard copy of any document or information sent otherwise than in hard copy form.

12.2. By providing the Fellowship with his or her email address or similar, any member of the Council is taken to have agreed to receive communications from the Fellowship and other members of the Council in electronic form at that address, unless he or she has indicated his or her unwillingness to receive such communications in that form.

13. Amendments to the Constitution

13.1. The Constitution may be altered only by a resolution of the Council passed by a three-quarter's majority of all the Councillors.

13.2. Any meeting called to consider a resolution relating to the amendment of the Constitution shall be called by at least one calendar months' written notice (calculated as from the date of notification), and such written notice shall set out the resolution to be considered and shall state that Councillors may vote either in person or by proxy or by post.

In its original form, this Constitution was dated 20 September 1962.

Amendments to the Constitution were ratified by the Executive Committee on 30 March 1987, 9 August 1988 and by the Council on 7 February 2019 and (via email) on 20 March 2020.

APPENDIX

Original preface to EFAC constitution (written in 1962)

Evangelicals have a name for being individualists. The reputation is not altogether undeserved. It is a sad fact that groups of evangelical Anglicans have existed for some years in different countries without being in fruitful contact, let alone living fellowship, with each other, while in other parts of the world there are evangelicals without any organization to draw them together.

But today evangelicals cannot afford the luxury of isolation. The Church of England has a precious evangelical heritage. Although gratefully "catholic" in the sense that it cherishes its historical continuity with the past and holds fast to the catholic faith of the Creeds, it is as yet outspokenly Protestant and Reformed in its repudiation of all doctrine which has no clear warrant in Holy Scripture. Nevertheless, there are Churches of the Anglican Communion which have sadly departed, to a greater or lesser extent, from biblical truth and Reformation principle. Even those Anglicans who are not themselves evangelical, but who value what they call the comprehensiveness of the Church of England, must grieve that in some areas the evangelical element is almost entirely absent.

At the same time, there do exist, wherever Anglicanism flourishes, fellowships of evangelicals, some vigorous and vocal, some struggling and silent.

A number of evangelicals in several parts of the world have been concerned since the Lambeth Conference of 1958 to bring these evangelical groups into closer and richer contact with one

another, for purposes of mutual counsel and encouragement. Evangelicals of all denominations are already in warm fellowship with each other through the World Evangelical Fellowship, and it seems that something similar is needed for evangelical Anglicans as well.

In consequence, an Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion has been brought into being, with Archbishop Hugh R. Gough, Primate of Australia, as its first President, and Bishop Marcus Loane and the Rev. J. R. W. Stott as its co- secretaries. The founder group members are the Canadian Anglican Evangelical Fellowship, the Church of England Evangelical Council, the New Zealand Evangelical Churchmen's Fellowship, the Evangelical Fellowship of Sydney Churchmen, the Tanganyika Anglican Evangelical Fellowship, and the Evangelical Fellowship of Victoria, while founder individual members exist in America, Asia, and Africa. It is hoped to enrol other group and individual members in due course.

Owing to the cost of travel, it is not expected that the Council of the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion (consisting of two representatives from each group member) will be able to meet more than once in every quinquennium, namely, during the Lambeth and the Pan-Anglican Congresses.

An informal meeting of some members did, however, take place in November 1961, in New Delhi during the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

The purpose of the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion is not partisan in any narrow or negative sense, but positive and eirenical. Its members are deeply concerned to see the truth of the Gospel, proclaimed in the Scripture and rediscovered at the Reformation, more thoroughly and widely embraced in the Anglican Communion, in order that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ.