

CONSTITUTION OF THE CENTRAL READERS' COUNCIL AS AMENDED AND APPROVED BY THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MARCH 2007 (revised April 2010, March 2012 and April 2017).

1. The organisation, which is the successor to the Central Readers' Conference, shall be known as the Central Readers' Council (hereinafter called "The Council").
2. The objects of the Council shall be to advance the religious and other charitable work of the Church of England by supporting the training, education and development of Readers for their Ministry in the Church of England.
3. In furtherance of such objects but not further or otherwise the Council shall have the following powers:
 - a) To provide advice, aid and service to the Ministry Division of the Archbishops' Council (hereinafter called "the Ministry Division") concerning the training and ministry of Readers.
 - b) To undertake and execute any charitable trust which may lawfully be undertaken by the Council.
 - c) To invest the monies of the Council not immediately required for its purposes in such investments as the Trustees hereinafter appointed shall from time to time think fit.
 - d) To do all such other things as shall further the attainment of the above objects or any of them.
4. The Council shall consist of:
 - (a) The Patron.
 - (b) The Archbishops of Canterbury and York.
 - (c) The Chair of the Council, who shall be a member of the House of Bishops, appointed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York after receiving a proposal from the Chair of the Ministry Division following consultation with the retiring Chair of the Council and the Vice-Chair of the Council.
 - (d) Three representatives from each diocese at least two of whom shall be Readers (one of whom shall be the Warden or deputy and one of whom shall be the Secretary or deputy), together with up to 3 representatives from the Armed Forces of the Crown.
5. The Council shall have power to invite representatives from the Church in Wales and of other Bodies to attend as observers or consultants who shall have the right to speak at meetings but not to vote.
6. The Council shall hold an Annual General Meeting each year at a time and place to be notified to the members of the Council by the Secretary. The Executive Committee may at any time for any specific purpose call an Extraordinary General

Meeting, and they shall do so forthwith upon requisition in writing of any twelve members of Council stating the purposes for which the meeting is required.

7. The Council will ask the Dioceses to pay an annual capitation fee to contribute to the funds of the Council as may be decided upon at an Annual General Meeting.
8. (a) The management and administration of the Council shall be vested in an Executive Committee consisting of the following persons:
 - (i) The Chair of the Council
 - (ii) The Vice-Chair who shall be a Reader elected at the AGM and who shall serve for a period of five years coterminous with the period of office of members of General Synod.
 - (iii) Two Wardens and Four Readers elected at an Annual General Meeting to serve for a period of five years coterminous with the period of office of members of General Synod.
 - (iv) The Treasurer of the Council elected at an Annual General Meeting to serve for a period of five years coterminous with the period of office of members of General Synod. All persons listed in (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) above also serve as Trustees of the Charity.
 - (v) All Consultants on Reader activity, the Editors respectively of the website and *The Reader* magazine, and the Chairs of any sub-committees who are not also elected members of the Executive. They have no right to vote at Executive Committee meetings.
 - (vi) The Director of the Ministry Division of the Church of England shall serve *ex-officio* on the Executive Committee, but has no right to vote.
 - (vii) Up to two members co-opted by the Executive Committee, to serve for a period of time determined by the Executive Committee, but in no case beyond the date of the next election of members at (iii) above. They have no right to vote.
- (b) Appointments and co-options to the Executive Committee shall be so made as to ensure that Readers are in a majority on the Executive Committee.
- (c) With the exception of the Chair of the Council, no member elected or co-opted to the Executive Committee or any of its sub-committees shall serve more than two terms unless the third term be in the office of Vice Chair or Treasurer of the Council. Any period in office following a mid-term election to fill a casual vacancy shall not be counted in the above.
- (d) Elected Reader members of the Executive Committee retire from membership of the Council at the Annual General Meeting following their 70th birthday.

- (e) Any vacancy on the Executive Committee for the post of Vice Chair, Warden, Reader representative or Treasurer shall be filled at the next Annual General Meeting for a period of years coterminous with the period of office of members of General Synod
9. The Executive Committee shall:-
- (a) Appoint a Secretary who shall normally be in attendance at all meetings of the Council and of the Executive Committee without the right to vote;
 - (b) have power to appoint assistant secretaries as required, who may be invited to attend all meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee without the right to vote;
 - (c) have power from time to time consistent with the provisions of this Constitution to make regulations, subject to ratification by a resolution of the Council passed by a simple majority of those attending the following General Meeting, and to set up working groups for the management of the Council and for the conduct of its business, including the summoning of meetings.
 - (d) have the power to constitute a sub-committee or sub-committees to carry out a specific purpose as they deem necessary. The chair of any such sub-committee, unless they are an elected member of the Executive Committee, shall not be entitled to vote at meetings of the Executive Committee. Sub-committees set up under this provision should be reviewed from time to time as to whether the purpose for which they were constituted is still required.
10. The provisions of this Constitution may be amended, added to or revoked by a resolution of the Council at an Annual General Meeting, 2 months prior notice of such proposed amendments being duly given to Council members, provided that such amendment, addition or revocation shall not enable the funds of the Council to be applied for non-charitable purposes.
11. The Council may be dissolved in pursuance of a resolution passed in General Meeting, not less than 2 months prior notice of such proposed dissolution and of the General Meeting being duly given to Council members. If after the satisfaction of all the debts and liabilities of the Council there remains any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid or distributed among the members of the Council but shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Council, and in default thereof then to some charitable object acceptable to the Charity Commissioners.