

1. NAME, STATUS, AND IDENTITY

- 1.1** The organisation shall be called 'Fidelium'.
- 1.2** Fidelium is a lay-led network of young adults aged 18–35 in the catholic tradition of the Church of England.
- 1.3** Fidelium serves parishes in the See of Fulham, in the Dioceses of London and Southwark.
- 1.4** Fidelium's funds are held and administered by Forward in Faith through a ring-fenced fund or account, subject to such practical arrangements as may be agreed between Forward in Faith, the Patron, and the Committee. Fidelium is not a separate charity or legal entity. No Officer, Committee member, Parish Representative, or other person acting in connection with Fidelium shall have authority to bind Forward in Faith, incur liabilities on behalf of Forward in Faith, or represent that they have authority to do so, except in accordance with arrangements expressly agreed with Forward in Faith.
- 1.5** All sacramental ministry exercised at events organised by, or formally endorsed by, Fidelium shall be in accordance with the sacramental discipline of the See of Fulham.
- 1.6** Where Fidelium promotes or formally endorses an event organised by a parish or other external body, responsibility for safeguarding and administrative arrangements shall remain with the organising body.
- 1.7** Attendance at Fidelium events shall not of itself confer membership of Fidelium or any rights under this Constitution. Formal voting rights shall be held by the voting Committee members, while Parish Representatives shall exercise the right of confirmation by general assent provided for in section 9.

2. PURPOSES

- 2.1** Fidelium exists to serve adults aged 18–35 by:
 - (a) supporting their spiritual, sacramental, and devotional life, especially in the catholic tradition of the Church of England;
 - (b) providing opportunities for Christian formation, teaching, and engagement with the Christian faith;
 - (c) fostering fellowship, mutual support, and participation in the common life of the Church;

- (d) encouraging engagement with the wider traditional catholic life and witness of the Church of England; and
- (e) undertaking Christian outreach and evangelism among young adults.

3. PATRONAGE AND CHAPLAINCY

3.1 The Bishop of Fulham shall be the Patron of Fidelium. The Patron shall:

- (a) appoint the Director;
- (b) appoint the Chaplain;
- (c) appoint the Safeguarding Lead; and
- (d) safeguard the catholic identity and ecclesial integrity of Fidelium.

3.2 Fidelium shall have a Chaplain appointed by the Patron. The Chaplain shall be a priest of the Bishop of Fulham's presbyterate.

3.3 The Chaplain shall serve for a term of one year. The Chaplain may be reappointed by the Patron for further one-year terms.

3.4 The Chaplain may resign by giving notice in writing to the Patron and the Director.

3.5 The Patron may remove the Chaplain from office for reasonable cause, following consultation with the Committee.

3.6 In consultation with the Patron and the Committee, the Chaplain shall:

- (a) provide pastoral and spiritual support;
- (b) advise the Committee on doctrinal, liturgical, and ecclesial matters concerning the life, ethos, and integrity of Fidelium; and
- (c) support the sacramental and devotional life of Fidelium.

4. GOVERNANCE

4.1 Fidelium shall be governed by a Committee. The Committee shall consist of:

- (a) the Director;
- (b) the Secretary;
- (c) the Treasurer; and
- (d) up to four other voting Committee members, appointed and confirmed in accordance with section 7 of this Constitution.

4.2 The Chaplain shall be an ex officio non-voting member of the Committee.

4.3 The Committee shall oversee the activities, administration, communications, finances, safeguarding, and general governance of Fidelium.

4.4 Committee meetings may be called by the Director, or by any two voting Committee members, by giving reasonable notice to the Committee.

4.5 The quorum for a Committee meeting shall be one half of the voting Committee members, rounded up to the nearest whole number.

4.6 Decisions of the Committee shall be made by a simple majority of voting Committee members present and voting. In the event of an equality of votes, the Director shall have a casting vote.

5. OFFICERS

5.1 The Director shall:

- (a) lead Fidelium; and
- (b) chair meetings of the Committee and General Meetings.

5.2 The Director shall serve for a term determined by the Patron, following consultation with the Committee.

5.3 The Director may resign by giving notice in writing to the Patron and the Secretary.

5.4 The Patron may remove the Director from office for reasonable cause, following consultation with the Chaplain and the Committee. The Director shall be given a reasonable opportunity to respond before any such removal takes effect.

5.5 In the event of a vacancy in the office of Director, the Committee shall exercise the functions of the Director, so far as necessary, until a new Director is appointed.

5.6 The Secretary shall:

- (a) keep records of Committee meetings and General Meetings;
- (b) maintain the list of Committee members and Parish Representatives; and
- (c) give notice of General Meetings.

5.7 The Treasurer shall:

- (a) oversee funds held for the purposes of Fidelium;
- (b) provide regular financial reports to the Committee and the Annual General Meeting; and
- (c) liaise, where necessary, with Forward in Faith, as the administering funds on behalf of Fidelium.

6. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

6.1 Fidelium is a lay-led network. Committee members and Parish Representatives must be laymen, except for the Chaplain.

6.2 Committee members and Parish Representatives ordinarily shall:

- (a) be baptised Christians;
- (b) be communicant members of the Church of England;
- (c) support the aims and traditionalist ethos of Fidelium;
- (d) be willing to uphold this Constitution;
- (e) worship in a parish in the See of Fulham;
- (f) fall within Fidelium's usual age range, as set out in section 1.2; and
- (g) not be in formal training for ordained ministry.

6.3 The Committee may make discretionary exceptions to the ordinary requirements in section 6.2, where appropriate, with the agreement of the Chaplain.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 7.1** The Secretary, Treasurer, and up to four other voting Committee members shall be appointed by the Committee, subject to confirmation by general assent at the next Annual General Meeting.
- 7.2** Candidates for appointment may be proposed by the Director or by any two voting Committee members. Before making an appointment, the Committee shall satisfy itself that the candidate meets the eligibility requirements set out in this Constitution and is willing to serve.
- 7.3** Appointments shall be made by a simple majority of the voting Committee members present and voting at a quorate Committee meeting.
- 7.4** Where an appointment is made before an Annual General Meeting, the person appointed shall serve on an interim basis until the conclusion of that Annual General Meeting. If the appointment is confirmed by the Annual General Meeting, the person shall serve until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. If the appointment is not confirmed, the person shall cease to hold office at the conclusion of that meeting.
- 7.5** Committee members may be reappointed without limit, provided that they continue to meet the eligibility requirements set out in this Constitution.
- 7.6** A Committee member may resign by giving notice in writing to the Director or Secretary.
- 7.7** The Committee may remove a voting Committee member, other than the Director, from office for reasonable cause, including failure to fulfil their duties, ceasing to meet the eligibility requirements set out in this Constitution, or conduct inconsistent with the aims and ethos of Fidelium. Any such removal shall require the approval of both the Patron and the Chaplain, together with a two-thirds majority of all voting Committee members entitled to vote on the matter. The person concerned shall be given a reasonable opportunity to respond.

8. PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

- 8.1** The Committee may appoint Parish Representatives for parishes in the See of Fulham. The Committee may delegate responsibility for appointing Parish Representatives to a designated Officer, who shall exercise that responsibility on behalf of the Committee.
- 8.2** A Parish Representative's term shall run from the date of appointment until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. Parish Representatives may be reappointed for

further terms, each running from the conclusion of one Annual General Meeting until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

8.3 Parish Representatives shall:

- (a) act as a link between Fidelium and their parish;
- (b) promote Fidelium's activities and events and undertake outreach to young adults in their parish;
- (c) submit relevant parish events for consideration for inclusion in Fidelium's programme;
- (d) participate in Fidelium's common life, including attending its Annual General Meeting; and
- (e) maintain regular communication with the Committee.

8.4 Parish Representatives shall ordinarily worship in the parish they represent.

8.5 A Parish Representative may resign by giving notice in writing to the Secretary or to an Officer designated by the Committee for this purpose.

8.6 The Committee may remove a Parish Representative from office for reasonable cause, including failure to fulfil their duties, ceasing to meet the eligibility requirements set out in this Constitution, or conduct inconsistent with the aims and ethos of Fidelium. Any such removal shall require the approval of the Chaplain. The person concerned shall be given a reasonable opportunity to respond.

8.7 The appointment of a Parish Representative shall create a link between Fidelium and that parish, but shall not of itself impose any legal, financial, or administrative responsibility on the parish.

9. GENERAL MEETINGS

9.1 An Annual General Meeting shall be held once each calendar year.

9.2 The Committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting when necessary.

9.3 At least fourteen days' notice shall be given of a General Meeting.

9.4 Parish Representatives appointed at least fourteen days before a meeting shall be entitled to attend and participate in General Meetings. Matters placed before the meeting shall be

confirmed by their general assent rather than by a formal vote. The Chaplain may attend and advise. Any other person, whether lay or ordained, may attend as an observer.

9.5 The Annual General Meeting shall:

- (a) invite present Parish Representatives to confirm by general assent the appointment of the Secretary, Treasurer, and any other voting Committee members appointed under section 7;
- (b) receive reports on the life and finances of Fidelium; and
- (c) consider any other relevant business included on the agenda.

9.6 The agenda shall be circulated with the notice of the Annual General Meeting. Any Parish Representative wishing to object to an item on the agenda, or to propose an additional item for consideration, shall submit the matter in writing to the Chaplain at least seven days before the meeting. The Chaplain shall determine whether, and in what form, the matter shall be considered at the meeting.

10. SAFEGUARDING

10.1 The Patron shall appoint a Safeguarding Lead.

10.2 The Safeguarding Lead shall serve for a term of one year. The Safeguarding Lead may be reappointed by the Patron for further one-year terms.

10.3 The Safeguarding Lead may resign by giving notice in writing to the Patron and the Director.

10.4 The Patron may remove the Safeguarding Lead from office for reasonable cause, following consultation with the Committee.

10.5 The Safeguarding Lead shall advise the Committee on safeguarding matters, act as a point of contact for attendees of Fidelium events wishing to raise a safeguarding concern, and ensure that any such concern is referred to, and liaise as appropriate with, the relevant parish, diocese, Forward in Faith, or other body responsible for the activity concerned, without displacing their existing safeguarding responsibilities.

10.6 Events organised by Fidelium are intended for adults aged 18 and over. Where Fidelium promotes or formally endorses an event organised by a parish or other external body at which persons under the age of 18 may be present, the Safeguarding Lead shall be notified. Appropriate safeguarding arrangements shall remain the responsibility of the organising body.

11. FINANCE

- 11.1** Funds held for the purposes of Fidelium shall be administered in accordance with this Constitution, any internal financial procedures adopted by the Committee, and any requirements of Forward in Faith. No expenditure or financial commitment shall be incurred on behalf of Fidelium except in accordance with those requirements.

12. POLICIES

- 12.1** The Committee may adopt such internal policies and procedures as are necessary for the proper governance and operation of Fidelium, provided that they are consistent with this Constitution.
- 12.2** These may include financial procedures governing expenses, reimbursement, and the authorisation of expenditure, which shall also comply with any requirements of Forward in Faith.

13. AMENDMENTS

- 13.1** This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the voting Committee members present and voting at a quorate Committee meeting, subject to confirmation by general assent at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 13.2** Any amendment shall require the approval of the Patron.

14. DISSOLUTION

- 14.1** Fidelium may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of the voting Committee members present and voting at a quorate Committee meeting, subject to confirmation by general assent at a General Meeting and the approval of the Patron.
- 14.2** Upon dissolution, and after the satisfaction of any properly incurred liabilities, any remaining funds held for the purposes of Fidelium shall remain with, or be transferred to, Forward in Faith, to be applied as far as possible to purposes consistent with the aims of Fidelium.
- 14.3** If Forward in Faith is unable or unwilling to receive or retain such funds, they shall be transferred to another Anglican charitable or ecclesial body approved by the Patron and consistent with the aims of Fidelium.

Fidelium Committee
St Bonaventure's day, 15. vii. 2026