

Mid-Cotswold Evangelical

MID-COTSWOLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE **CONSTITUTION**

1. **Name:** MID-COTSWOLDS EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

2. **Aims:** The aims of the Alliance will be:

(a) To work for the extension of Christ's Kingdom in the area;

(b) To be a visible expression of the unity which God has given in Christ to Christians of all denominations;

(c) To provide an opportunity for prayer, for the exchange of information and for mutual encouragement.

3. **Policy:** The Alliance is not set up in opposition to any existing local inter-church group, but rather to arrange such activities that would not conflict with those normally undertaken by others. In all such activities the interdenominational character of the Alliance shall be carefully borne in mind. Furthermore, every effort shall be made to see that such activities that are arranged from time to time shall not clash with important events in the programme of local churches.

4. **Basis of Faith:** The Basis of Faith shall be that of the Evangelical Alliance which is as follows:

"Evangelical Christians accept the revelation of the Triune God given in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and confess the historic faith of the Gospel therein set forth. They here assert doctrines which they regard as crucial to the understanding of the faith, and which should issue in mutual love, practical Christian service and evangelical concern."

"The sovereignty and grace of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in creation, providence, revelation, redemption and final judgment."

"The divine inspiration of the Holy Scripture and its consequent entire trustworthiness and supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct."

"The universal sinfulness and guilt of fallen man, making him subject to God's wrath and condemnation."

"The substitutionary sacrifice of the incarnate Son of God as the sole and all-sufficient ground of redemption from the guilt and power of sin, and from its eternal consequences."

"The justification of the sinner solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ crucified and risen from the dead."

"The illuminating, regenerating, indwelling and sanctifying work of God the Holy Spirit."

"The priesthood of all believers, who form the universal church, the Body of which Christ is the Head and which is committed by His command to the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world."

"The expectation of the personal, visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ in power and glory."

5. **Membership:** There are two categories of membership, Full and Associate (see below). Application for membership to either category is open to all local churches, existing Christian organisations and individual Christians who support the aims of the Alliance and are in agreement with the Basis of Faith.

(a) Full Membership: Open to all churches, organisations and individuals who are already Full members of the Evangelical Alliance, enabling them to pay their national EA fees should they so desire through the local Alliance and entitling them to full voting rights at (see below) Members meetings.

Each church which affiliates shall be entitled to send two representatives to Members meetings, each of whom shall be entitled to vote. Each Christian organisation which affiliates will be able to send one representative to Members meeting who shall have one vote.

Those wishing to apply for membership of the national Evangelical Alliance may apply through Mid-Cotswold Evangelical Alliance and are encouraged to do so.

(b) Associate Membership: Open to churches, organisations and individuals who while wishing to be part of the local Alliance are not Full members of the Evangelical Alliance. Associate Members are able to attend all activities organised by the Fellowship but do not have voting rights at Members meetings.

The above (5a and 5b) describes categories of membership; however it is the aim of the Alliance to make its public activities open to as wide a number of Christians as possible.

6. **Meetings:** The Alliance shall hold an Annual Members' Meeting at which accounts will be presented and a Working Group be elected (see below), and other Members' Meetings as appropriate.

7. **Working Group:** The activities of the Alliance will be coordinated by the Working Group elected at the Annual Members' Meeting and consisting of six full members of the Fellowship, of whom four should be in recognised overall pastoral oversight of a local church fellowship which itself is affiliated in Full Membership of the national Evangelical Alliance. The Working Group shall allocate and share among themselves the tasks of administration and planning as they feel appropriate.

The Working Group shall have power to co-opt Full members as they feel necessary.

8. **Amendments:** The Alliance shall have power to amend the constitution provided that at least eight weeks notice is given by post of the suggested amendment and that two-thirds of those eligible to vote and attending the Annual Members' Meeting are in favour of it.

9. **Finance:** Member churches, organisations and individuals shall be invited to make a contribution to the funds of the Alliance on the basis of an annual gift, the suggested subscription being as agreed by the Annual Members' Meeting each year and payable following that meeting.