

DURHAM CHURCHES TOGETHER CONSTITUTION/GOVERNING DOCUMENT

NAME Durham Churches Together (DCT)

ADDRESS

Durham Churches Together
c/o St. Oswald's Institute,
Church Street,
Durham, DH1 3DQ

MEMBERSHIP

DCT is an association of Christian Churches and Organisations in the City of Durham and its surrounding neighbourhoods. It welcomes the membership of organisations professing Christianity and wishing to cooperate and work together to promote Christian thinking and values amongst its members and the wider community. Typically, these organisations will be members of groups which are members of Churches Together in Britain & Ireland. Applications by organisations to join DCT shall be approved by the Committee who will duly consult with national ecumenical bodies.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

DCT aims to provide opportunities and encouragement for the development of mutual understanding between different Churches and Christian communities, assist in the growth of ecumenical awareness and to undertake joint activities, worship, celebrations, charitable activities, study and educational sessions. Its aims include the provision of opportunities for public participation in its celebrations and activities.

DCT endeavours to improve the welfare of local communities and, by encouraging collaboration with other organisations, to promote justice, democracy and peace, the care of creation and a fair distribution of the earth's resources.

ORGANISATION, TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS, DECISION MAKING

The DCT is governed by the DCT Committee of Trustee Representatives. Each member Church and Christian Organisation is asked to appoint one person - lay or clergy - as its Representative on the DCT Committee. Where practicable, they are invited to appoint a Deputy Representative, who could also participate in meetings and events. This person would have a vote in the absence of the first-named Representative.

The DCT Committee shall meet at least three times annually in addition to the AGM. Other individuals from the member organisations are welcome to participate in meetings of the DCT Committee but only the appointed Representatives are entitled to vote. Each member organisation is responsible for the appointment, term of office and replacement of its DCT Committee Representative.

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held once per year at which reports of the activities that have been undertaken and those that are planned shall be presented. The Committee shall give at least three clear weeks' notice of the AGM by announcement in Grapevine.

The Examined accounts for the preceding year shall also be presented to the AGM. Each member organisation shall have one vote when making decisions at the AGM but discussion, subject to time constraints, shall be open to all present.

The DCT Committee OR the representatives of at least three churches represented on the committee may call a Special General Meeting (SGM), giving at least two weeks' notice to members of the Committee and at least two weeks' notice in Grapevine, stating the resolution(s) to be voted on.

Each member organisation shall have one vote when making decisions at the SGM but discussion, subject to time constraints, shall be open to all present. The Chair, Secretary, Minutes Secretary and Treasurer are each appointed for a term of three years by the Annual General Meeting. The Committee may appoint deputies for these officers.

After three years in post, the Chair and Secretary may be nominated for one further consecutive term of three years in that post. There is no such limit to the number of consecutive nominations for Minutes Secretary or Treasurer.

An election falls due at an AGM three years after the appointment of an officer, or at an earlier AGM should an officer resign before the expiration of three years. In the event of an officer resigning between AGMs, the Committee may make a temporary appointment until the next AGM. If an election is due, nominations for the posts to be filled shall be invited together with notification of the AGM.

A nomination may only be made by a Church or Christian Organisation that is in membership with Durham Churches Together (together with another such body as seconder) OR by the Committee.

In order to ensure a measure of continuity in an age of uncertainty and change, only people who have been a representative or deputy representative for at least one year shall be eligible for nomination as Chair.

All nominations shall be made in writing or by email to both the Secretary and Chair of the Committee, at least one week before the AGM is due.

Nominees shall be invited to make a verbal statement to the AGM, outlining their suitability for the post.

If there is more than one nomination for a post, a secret ballot shall be held at the AGM and the outcome notified to the AGM.

Any revisions or termination of the DCT Constitution must be proposed by the DCT Committee and approved by the AGM. In case of termination of the DCT any remaining assets shall be returned to contributors in proportion to their contributions over the previous two years.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Accounts shall be kept by the Treasurer of all expenditures and receipts of the DCT. The Members of DCT are invited to make an annual financial contribution to the organisation which is its sole normal income. A bank account is to be kept in the name of DCT where such funds are received and from which expenses are paid. Expenses include the operation of a website including the “A Church Near You” feature and other information about DCT, its member organisations and their activities as well as those of other Christian groups.

Expenditures shall also include the maintenance of an insurance policy to cover losses, accidents or injuries, including public liability, arising during DCT activities.

Expenditures relating to the actions agreed by the DCT Committee shall be approved (and cheques signed) by any two of the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

The DCT financial accounting year shall be from 1 January to 31 December. Annual accounts shall be prepared by the Treasurer and examined by a suitably competent and independent individual before presentation to the AGM.

Adopted by Durham Churches Together AGM 12th June 2025

and including revisions adopted at the AGM 23 June 2026