

Constitution of the Tameside Interfaith Network Known as Faiths United (Tameside)

1. NAME

The name of the network is Faiths United (Tameside)

2. ADMINISTRATION

Subject to the matters set out below the Network and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by the members of the Committee, constituted in clause 7 of this constitution.

3. OBJECTS

The Network's objects ("the objects") are to develop friendship, mutual understanding and respect through dialogue, networking and joint action.

4. POWERS

In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the Committee may exercise the following powers:

- (a) to promote and foster friendship, understanding and respect between faith groups and members of the community
- (b) to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the committee shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law;
- (c) to foster and encourage co-operation and communication between similar organisations, societies, institutions and local authorities and to represent the views of members of the association;
- (d) to do all such lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Membership of the Network shall be open to:
 - i. members of the nine faith groups recognised by The Interfaith Network for the UK viz. Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian.
 - ii. members of The Unitarian Church
 - iii. others subscribing to the objects of the Network and whose membership would not adversely affect mainstream involvement in the work of the network, as approved by the committee and endorsed by the membership.
 - iv Non voting Associate Members, as defined in the rules
- (b) Members must accept and promote the objects of Faiths United Tameside

- (c) Members must complete an application form; provide confirmation of their faith affiliation.

6. OFFICERS

At the Annual General Meeting the Committee shall elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other Officers as may from time to time be determined.

The term of office, in each case, shall be one year but they may be re-elected for up to three terms of office running concurrently.

7. COMMITTEE

- a) The Committee shall consist of the elected Officers plus one representative from each faith group.
- b) Associate members may also be co-opted but shall not have a vote
- c) The project worker shall be an ex officio member.
- d) The Committee may at any time co-opt members of the Network to fill vacant places on the committee (including vacancies created by illness, continued absence, resignation or termination of membership). Co-options must be approved by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the meeting.
- e) All members of the Committee shall retire from office together at the end of the Annual General Meeting next after the date on which they came into office but they may be re-elected without limit on the number of occasions on which they may serve.
- f) The proceedings of the Committee shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among its number or by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment of a member.
- g) Nobody shall be appointed a voting member of the Committee who is under eighteen years of age.

8. MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

- (a) The Committee shall normally hold not less than four meetings per year. A special meeting may be called at any time by the Secretary or by two members of the Committee upon not less than four days' notice being given to the other members of the Committee of the matters to be discussed.
- (b) If both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman is absent from any meeting, the members of the Committee present shall choose one of their number to be chair of the meeting before any other business is transacted.
- (c) There shall be a quorum when at least half the number of members of the Committee for the time being or four members of the Committee, whichever is the lesser, are present at a meeting.

- (d) Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of the Committee present and voting on the question but in the case of an equality of votes the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- (e) The Committee shall keep minutes, in books kept for the purpose, of the proceedings at meetings of the Committee.
- (f) The Committee may from time to time make and alter rules for the Network and the conduct of its business, the summoning and conduct of its meetings and the custody of its documents. No rule shall be made which is inconsistent with this constitution.

9. RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

- (a) The funds of the Network, including all donations, contributions and bequests shall be maintained by the administrators of the organisation T3SC or their successors
- (b) The funds belonging to the Network shall be applied only in furthering the objects.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (a) There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the Network which shall normally be held in the month of May in each year, but in any case within 15 months of the last Annual General Meeting.

At the Annual General Meeting the members shall:-

- (i) receive the report from the Committee on the activities of the preceding year;
- (ii) receive the financial report of income and expenditure of the Network for the preceding year;
- (iii) elect the officers in accordance with clause (6) above
- (iv) elect members to the committee in accordance with clause (7) above.
- (v) Elect ; one representative to Tameside Strategic Partnership
Two representatives to Tameside Voice
Two representatives to the Community Cohesion Partnership
Any representatives to Local, Regional & National Bodies as required
- (b) Annual General Meetings shall be called by the Committee. The Secretary shall give at least twenty-one days' notice of the Annual General Meeting to all members. All members of the organisation shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.
- (c) The Chairman of the Committee shall act as the Chairman of the Annual General Meeting but if neither the Chairman nor the Vice Chair is present, before any other business is transacted, the persons present shall appoint a chair of the meeting.
- (d) Nominations for election to the Committee must be made by members of the Network in writing and must be in the hands of the Secretary of the Committee at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies, election shall be by ballot.

11. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Committee may call a Special General Meeting of the Network at any time. If at least ten members request such a meeting in writing stating the business to be considered the Secretary shall call such a meeting. At least twenty-one days' notice must be given. The notice must state the business to be discussed.

12. PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS

- (a) The Secretary or other person specially appointed by the Committee shall keep a full record of proceedings at every general meeting of the organisation.
- (b) There shall be a quorum when at least one tenth of the number of members of the Network for the time being, or four members of the Network, are present at any general meeting.

13. EXTERNAL SUPPORT

The Network may use the services of another organisation to provide administrative support. This can include secretarial services, financial record keeping, preparing bids for financial support, providing support and day to day management of staff and preparation and presentation of major events.

14. ALTERATIONS TO CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting. The notice of the general meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.

15. DISSOLUTION

If the Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Network it shall call a meeting of all members of the Network, of which not less than twenty-one days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting the Committee shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Network. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other institution or institutions working in the area of benefit having objects similar to the objects of the Network as the members of the Network may determine or failing that shall be applied for some other similar purpose.

This constitution was adopted at Meeting of the Faiths United (Tameside) on the 24th January 2008 at St Michaels Court, Stamford Street, Ashton under Lyne, OL6 6XN

Signed

Signed

.....

.....

Revd.Canon Stephen Wilson

Mohamed Seedat

Chair of the meeting

Secretary of the meeting