

UPDATED CONSTITUTION FOR CORNERSTONE, TORPOINT LOCAL ECUMICAL PARTNERSHIP (FOR DECISION)

Cornerstone Church, Torpoint, is a long established Methodist / URC LEP. It is updating its constitution as recommended in the Churches Together in Devon 2016 review.

The new version is attached, and requires Synod approval. District Policy Committee has considered it, taking account of advice from the Connexional Ecumenical Officer, and recommends approval.

The Constitution has been agreed with the URC SW Synod Ecumenical Officer, who is recommending it for formal approval through their processes. It also requires approval by Churches Together in Devon as the sponsoring body. Once all approvals are given it comes into effect on adoption by the Church Meeting (and is given that date).

Synod is asked to authorise the Chair of District, together with the Superintendent of the Plymouth and Devonport Circuit, to agree any minor changes arising from these further consultations.

Synod members should bear in mind that most of the text is set in the template agreed by Churches Together in England and the Charity Commission. The main discretion is in the numbers, and these have been chosen to reflect the local circumstances.

Note that the constitution refers to Methodist S.O.611 and in approving it Synod is giving the delegation described there. Essentially this means the Church Council acts as the Methodist Church Council except for some reserved matters for which a wider meeting including Circuit ministers and a Circuit Steward is required. (Anyone who spots that the relevant clause has changed slightly from the last LEP constitution presented to Synod can be assured that this comes from the Connexional Ecumenical Officer. They will also be showing aptitude for the vacant DEO(Devon) role and should contact the Chair!)

It would be helpful if any queries on this paper are sent to the Synod Secretary in advance.