

Constitution of Epworth Old Rectory (Trust)

The Council is asked to note the changes to the constitution of Epworth Old Rectory (Trust). The revised constitution is set out below.

Amended	Document ref	Revisions
March 2016	EOR 006 Trust constitution Issue 3 3 June 2015	
26.04.2017	2017.04.26 EOR Trust Constitution Issue 3	2a revised from maximum of 30 Trustees to Maximum of 25
01.04.2019	EOR 006 Trust Constitution Issue 3	4a (ii) The World Methodist Committee of the MCGB ceases to exist; the ex officio member is the Secretary of the MCB or his/her nominee. 4a (vi) Inclusion of a representative of MWiB in ex officio appointments.

CONSTITUTION OF EPWORTH OLD RECTORY (TRUST)

1. Purpose and Role

Trustees of the Epworth Old Rectory are appointed to manage its affairs on behalf of the British Methodist Conference and the World Methodist Council. Such management shall include:

- a. Setting, developing and maintaining the vision and mission of the Old Rectory as a place of Christian pilgrimage and a museum enabling visitors to understand the historical and religious importance of the Wesley family and their influence on contemporary Methodism worldwide.
- b. Overseeing the property, finances, staffing (both employed and voluntary), organisation and activities, and all such other matters pertaining to the work of the Old Rectory as from time to time determined.
- c. Promoting the work of the Epworth Old Rectory as widely as possible.
- d. Holding in trust and adding to the collections of Epworth Old Rectory.

2. Composition and Terms of Service

- a. The Trustees shall consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and further Trustees up to a maximum of twenty five in total. These will include ex officio members and those who have specific interests and skills relevant to the responsibilities of the Old Rectory trust, in particular where possible an accountant, a lawyer and a surveyor or architect.
- b. At least 75% of the Trustees shall be members of the Methodist Church in Britain or another Church within the membership of the World Methodist Council
- c. The quorum at any Trustees' Meeting shall be eight trustees. This shall normally include at least one World Section trustee, but where such attendance is not possible decisions taken at that meeting shall be subject to subsequent consultation with the General Secretary of the World Methodist Council.
- d. Trustees shall be appointed for a period not exceeding six years but may be re-appointed for further terms up to a maximum of nine years in all. Ex-officio Trustees, however, shall serve for the full period of their office.
- e. A Trustee who is absent for more than three consecutive meetings without good cause or sending apologies will be deemed to have resigned as a trustee.

3. Appointment of Trustees

All Trustees will be appointed by the British Methodist Conference.

4. Nominations of Trustees

a. Ex officio members

The Trust shall include ex-officio the following members:

- i. The General Secretary of the World Methodist Council
- ii. ~~Chair of the Methodist Church in Britain World Methodist Committee.~~ **The Secretary of the British Methodist Conference or his/her nominee.**
- iii. The Chair of the Lincolnshire District (or its successor) of the Methodist Church in Britain or his/her nominee.
- iv. The Superintendent Minister of the Epworth and Scunthorpe Circuit, (or its successor) of the Methodist Church in Britain or his/her nominee.
- v. The incumbent at St Andrew's Church, Epworth.
- vi. **A representative of MWiB (The President in the second year of her presidency and final year of her vice-presidency)**

b. British Trustees

Fifty per cent of the Trustees shall be nominated by The Methodist Church in Britain World Methodist Committee. In making these nominations the advice of Methodist Council (particularly with reference to the Chairman) and the advice of existing trustees should be sought.

c. World Section Trustees

Fifty per cent of the Trustees shall be nominated by the World Methodist Council bearing in mind the geographical and practical requirements of being able to attend meetings at Epworth.

5. Meetings

- a. The Trustees shall meet physically at least once a year, normally at Epworth Old Rectory, in order to conduct the business of the Trust.
- b. This meeting shall be held at a time when overseas Trustees are likely to be in the UK
- c. This meeting shall be the Annual General Meeting of the Trust
- d. At least two weeks' notice of meetings shall be given by the Secretary.
- e. Virtual meetings/consultations may be held as and when the appointed executive (see 7) does not have the delegated powers to act, or when it feels such consultation is necessary. In this it is each Trustee's responsibility to provide the Secretary with an up to date e mail address; responses to the consultation will normally be expected within two weeks.

6. Powers

- a. The Trustees shall have powers to raise and to disburse funds in the interests of Epworth Old Rectory, and to raise any loans which may prove necessary for the furtherance of its work. Loans shall only be raised if ways of repaying them within a reasonable timescale have been established in advance.
- b. The Trustees shall have powers to acquire or to sell or otherwise dispose of property only with the consent of the British Methodist Conference. Any such transactions shall be only for the furtherance of the work of Epworth Old Rectory and not for purely speculative purposes.

7. Delegation of powers The Trustees may delegate authority to sub groups act in their name in specified matters.

8. Non-Trustee appointments

- a. The Manager appointed to Epworth Old Rectory shall act as an adviser to the Trust and attend Trustees' Meetings in a non-voting capacity except on such occasions as attendance is deemed not to be appropriate.
- b. The Connexional Heritage Officer shall act as an adviser to the Trust and shall be invited to attend Trustees' Meeting in a non-voting capacity.
- c. The Trustees shall appoint at least one Curatorial Adviser who shall be available to offer guidance to the Manager as required and shall be invited to attend Trustees' Meetings as appropriate in a non-voting capacity.
- d. The Trustees shall have power to invite any non-Trustees who have appropriate skills and experience that could be of help to the work of the Old Rectory to attend Trustees' Meetings in a non-voting advisory capacity.

9. Application of income

- a. Any funds raised, loans secured, grants obtained or income received in any other way whatsoever shall be used only for the purposes of Epworth Old Rectory.
- b. No trustee or volunteer shall in any way benefit financially from such income other than by the receipt of payment for expenses incurred in the course of their duties.
- c. The trustees shall source investment to the Epworth Old Rectory for
 - i. the maintenance of the property and fixtures
 - ii. the employment of a Manager with curatorial responsibilities

10. Dissolution/Disposal

- a. In the event of Epworth Old Rectory ceasing to operate through insolvency or for any other reason:
 - i The World Methodist Council Executive, or its successor, shall decide on the proper disposal of the building and curtilage of 1 Rectory Street Epworth
 - ii The Heritage Collection at Epworth Old Rectory shall remain part of the Heritage Collection of the Methodist Church in Britain and ownership be transferred to the Methodist Council.
- b. Should the assets of the Epworth Old Rectory ever in part or whole be disposed of, the net proceeds of sale shall be distributed by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes upon the direction of the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council (or its successor).
- c. Any income from the disposal of any part or whole of the Epworth Old Rectory shall be used only for the charitable purposes of the Methodist Church in Britain and the World Methodist Council.
- d. Any decisions taken under this clause may be enacted only with the consent of the British Methodist Conference.

11. Amendment of the Constitution

- a. The constitution may be amended by a 75% majority of the trustees.
- b. The constitution shall not be amended in any way that is contrary to the trust arrangements set out in the Trust Deed dated 31 December 1954 as amended by Deed Poll dated 22 May 1995.
- c. Nothing in this constitution shall take precedence over the trust arrangements set out in the Trust Deed dated 31 December 1954 as amended by Deed Poll dated 22 May 1995.

*****RESOLUTION**

79/1. The Council notes the changes to the constitution of the Epworth Old Rectory (Trust).