

Constitution of

Council of African and Caribbean Church (UK)

A Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO)

Date of Adoption: (Last Amended): 15th December 2025

PREAMBLE

Arising from dialogue between the British Council of Churches and churches of African and Caribbean origin—often referred to as Black-led Churches—it became evident that there was a need for these churches to come together in unity. This need was driven by the desire to speak with one voice, to pool spiritual gifts and material resources, and to work collectively for the advancement of the Christian faith, mutual understanding, cooperation, and encouragement.

In response to this call for unity, a number of African and Caribbean churches began formal dialogue in 1979. These discussions led to the establishment in the United Kingdom of a representative ecumenical body known initially as the Council of African and Allied Churches.

The Council was formally inaugurated on 26 September 1981 at St Margaret's Church, Westminster, with the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Westminster, Councilor and Mrs. G. I. Harley, as Chief Guests. The inaugural sermon was preached by The Very Reverend Alan Webster, M.A., B.D., Dean of St Paul's Cathedral. This was followed by a presentation of the aims and objectives of the Council by the Chairman, The Most Reverend Father Olu Abiola of the Aladura International Church, and an inaugural address by the Lord Mayor of Westminster.

Ministers officiating at the inauguration included Canon John Baker (St Margaret's Church, Westminster), Bishop Owusu Akuffo (Divine Prayer Society), Revd. Jeri Jehu-Appiah (Musama Disco Christo Church), Revd. G. Tettey (Church of Universal Prayer Fellowship), Revd. Akinola Ajibode (Pentecostal Revival Church of Christ), Apostle S. K. Adofo (Church of the Lord Brotherhood), Apostle J. Ozigi (Eternal Order of the Morning Star), Revd. Biney (Universal Prayer Fellowship), Bishop S. Douglas (Pentecostal Apostolic Church), Apostle J. Nwagu (Cherubim and Seraphim Society), and Pastor A. Omideyi (Christ Apostolic Church). Mr. S. K. Omideyi served as organist, Elder Owusu Bediako delivered the vote of thanks, and Matron C. E. Ogunneye was appointed the first Secretary of the Council.

Following a petition in 1986 from Caribbean member churches and Caribbean Christians who were members of African churches, the name of the Council was formally changed to the Council of African and Afro-Caribbean Churches (UK), now known as the Council of African and Caribbean Churches United Kingdom (CACCUK).

The Council is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Saviour of the world, and which affirm and uphold the principles, nature, aims, and objectives of the Council. While the Council does not claim or exercise ecclesiastical authority over its member churches, it expects each member church to be a living expression of the true Christian Church, to the honour and glory of God.

The Council is recognized under the Sharing of Church Buildings Act 1969, as published in the London Gazette on 22 May 1991, and was designated by both the Archbishops of Canterbury and York under the Ecumenical Relations Measure, for the purposes of Canons B43 and B44, on 28 January 1992.

Formed in 1979, the Council of African and Caribbean Churches United Kingdom (CACCUK) serves as a representative body linking African and Caribbean diaspora congregations across the United Kingdom. The Council brings churches into membership, supports the training and development of ministers, represents African and Caribbean Christian communities in public life and wider society, and speaks on behalf of its members within ecumenical bodies such as Churches Together in England and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

The Council is also a founder member of the Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom and represents African and Caribbean Christian communities on interfaith matters in various national and local contexts, including the Faith Communities Forum.

Website: http://caccuk.org/

Below is a photo of CACCUK founder Father Olu Abiola OBE at an IFN event.



1.0. NAME

i. The name of the organization shall be "Council of African and Caribbean Churches" (CACC).

ii. The Council is a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) registered under the laws of England and Wales.

iii. The Motto of the Council is "Christ is our Cornerstone"

iv. National Location of Principal Office & Secretariat

The principal office of the Council is in England and Wales, and the Secretariat is at: The Church of the Lord Worldwide, 25 Surrey Square London SE17 2JU, or such other places as may be designated from time to time.

2.0. LEGAL STATUS

The Council shall be a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO), registered under the laws of England and Wales, and subject to the jurisdiction of the UK Charity Commission.

3.0. OBJECTS

The objects of the Council are exclusively charitable and include:

i. The advancement of the Christian faith.

ii. The promotion of principles of Christian fellowship.

iii. The promotion of ecumenical consciousness and fraternal relationships among its members and with other churches worldwide.

iv. The education of members and the general public in matters of faith, ethics, and community service.

v. The institution of academic research into indigenous African and Caribbean Christianity, theology, and history.

vi The advancement of the identity, recognition, and dignity of African and Caribbean churches as equal partners with the global church in proclaiming the good news of God’s Kingdom.

vii. The promotion and working for human dignity, freedom, equality, and justice anywhere in the world.

viii. To be a medium through which all African and

ix. Caribbean churches that share aims similar to the Council's may work out objects set forth in this Constitution.

x. To encourage its members to cooperate for common witness and evangelism thereby fostering unity in one faith.

xi. To perform with joint effort those services which individual churches cannot conveniently provide for themselves, especially in Education, the training of ministers and pursuance of Charitable projects for social welfare and advancement.

xii. To intervene (when called upon) wherever there is conflict between member churches or internally in those churches in order to restore peace and mutual understanding.

xiii. To plead for and work towards the unity of Christians everywhere.

xiv. To assist, or act on behalf of, any person or people that may need support and assistance in the area of social deprivation, social injustice, immigration difficulties, or racial harassment, where the Council believes that fundamental human rights have been infringed.

Xv. Such other charitable purposes consistent with the above as may be approved by the trustees and the Charity Commission.

4.0. POWERS

The Council shall have the power to do anything lawful which is necessary or desirable to achieve its charitable purposes, including but not limited to:

a. Organizing conferences, seminars, and training programmes.

b. Publishing books, reports, and educational materials.

c. Establishing partnerships with local and international organizations.

d. Raising funds and receiving contributions (provided such funds are used only for the Council's purposes).

e. Employing staff and engaging volunteers.

f. Purchasing, leasing, or otherwise acquiring property.

g. Setting up special forums, committees, or task forces to further the aims of the Council.

5. OWNERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL: (CA CC UK (CIO)

i. The Council and all its property shall be held in the name of the Council of African and Caribbean Churches (CACC) as a CIO.

ii. No member shall have any private ownership rights over the assets of the Council.

6.0. – MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Eligibility:

(a) Membership of the Council (CIO) shall be open to all African and Caribbean Denomination/Churches of origin who confess that Jesus Christ is God and the Saviour of the World according to the scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfil their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They must also accept the principles, nature, aims, and objects of the Council.

(b) All applicants must submit with their application form, a Statement of their beliefs and the admission fee.

(c) Applications shall be investigated in the light of information provided on the application form, followed by an interview by selected members of the Council (CIO), On approval of membership, annual membership dues must be paid before confirmation of full admission of membership.

(d) Membership of the Council cannot be transferred to any other Denomination, Church or organization.

6.2 Categories of Membership:

6.2.1. Full Membership –

African and Caribbean churches or denominations.

6.2.2. Associate Membership –

A potential Associate Member shall be a Christian organization (including a Church) registered with the Charity Commission which teaches its members the Christian way of life and exercises Christian discipline, and which is prepared to work in co-operation with other Member-Churches of the Council.

An Associate Member seeking to become a member of the Council shall, in addition to the conditions stated in paragraph below and be required to:

i. Attend at least two-third of the Standing Committee meetings for a minimum period of one year preceding the acceptance of its application.

ii. Contribute to the Council's levy funds as stipulated by the Council

iii. A potential Associate Member who applies for membership shall be accepted as an Associate Member by not less than two-thirds of the voting members present at the General Assembly.

6.2.3. Limits of Associate Members:

Associate Members shall not be entitled to represent the Council under the

umbrella of CACC (CIO) at any level except when expressly authorize by the Trustees/Council

6.3 Duties of Members to The Council

Members are expected to:

a. Uphold the aims and objectives of the Council.

b. Actively participate in programmes and meetings.

c. Pay subscriptions or membership dues as agreed by the General Assembly.

d. Promote peace, unity, and the Christian witness of the Council.

6.4. Termination of Membership:

(a) A member shall cease to be a member of the Council immediately that the member body is dissolved and/ or no longer in operation for whatever reason.

(b) The Council (CIO) shall be obliged to stop the membership of a body if the member fails to subscribe to the annual membership fees continuously for two years.

(c) A member body shall be expelled from membership of this Body (CIO) if the member is found to have criminal practices/ activities.

(d) Conduct deemed contrary to the Council's constitution and aims (subject to disciplinary procedure).

7.0. OFFICERS

The Council shall have the following Officers:

i. President

ii. Secretary

iii. Assistant/Deputy Secretary (where applicable)

iv. Treasurer

v. Financial Secretary

vi. Welfare Officer

vii. Publicity and Public Relations Officer

viii. Legal Officer

ix. Chair of Events Committee

x. Chaplain

xi. Women Coordinator

xii. Youth Coordinator

9. Other Officers as appointed by the General Assembly.

8.0. PRESIDENTS ROTATION:

Leadership rotation shall be with the following denominations

i. The Church of the Lord

ii. Cherubim and Seraphim

iii. Celestial Church of Christ

iv. Pentecostals (includes the Caribbean churches)

9.0. DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

The duties of the Officer Shall be as set out by the Council

THE PRESIDENT AND CHURCH LEADERS

i. The President shall provide spiritual leadership, preside over Council meetings, and represent the Council in external relations.

ii. The President shall be accountable to the General Assembly and Trustees

iii. Newly appointed President shall be introduced and approved by the General Assembly.

iv. Each denomination must submit the name of its church leader in the United Kingdom, which will be approved by the General Assembly.

v. The position of the President will rotate among the denominations, with each term lasting four (4) years.

vi. The President will chair meetings

vii. The President will make public statements on behalf of the Council.

viii. The President shall summon a meeting of the General Assembly through the Honourary Secretary or any other officer of the Council in the absence of the Honourary Secretary.

ix. The Head of Churches shall automatically be a member of the Board of Trustees unless he or she does not meet the criteria set by the Council and Charity Commission.

THE HONOURARY SECRETARY

i. The Honourary Secretary shall be responsible for administration, communication, and execution of Council decisions.

ii. The Honourary Secretary shall keep records, minutes, and correspondence.

ASSISTANT/HONOURARY DEPUTY SECRETARY

i. Supports the Honourary Secretary and steps in when absent.

THE TREASURER

i. The Treasurer shall manage the financial affairs of the Council in line with charity law.

ii. Annual accounts shall be prepared, audited, and submitted to the Charity Commission.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

i. Assists the Treasurer with day-to-day financial operations.

ii. Maintains accurate records of income and expenditure.

iii. Coordinates with membership on dues and subscriptions.

WELFARE OFFICER

i. Oversees member care and support.

ii. Coordinates welfare initiatives (sick visits, bereavement support, emergency relief).

iii. Works with chaplains to ensure pastoral and emotional well-being.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

i. Manages the Council's public image and communications.

ii. Oversees media relations, press releases, and newsletters.

iii. Promotes Council activities through traditional and digital media.

iv. Ensures consistency with CACC's Christian identity and charitable purposes.

LEGAL ADVISER

i. Provides legal guidance to Trustees and officers.

ii. Ensures compliance with charity law, employment law, safeguarding, and data protection.

iii. Reviews contracts, agreements, and constitutional changes.

CHAIR OF EVENTS COMMITTEE

i. Leads the planning and execution of conferences, celebrations, and ecumenical events.

ii. Coordinates with committees, officers, and volunteers.

iii. Ensures events align with the Council's objectives and financial policies.

CHAPLAIN

i. Provides spiritual care, prayers, and pastoral support to members.

ii. Leads devotions at Council gatherings.

iii. Supports welfare officer in addressing spiritual needs of members in distress.

THE MODERATOR:

i. The Moderator will be elected for a term of four (4) years.
ii. The Moderator will be appointed from the same denomination as the President.
iii. The Moderator ensure meetings follow the Constitution, Standing Orders, and agreed procedures

iv The Moderator maintains neutrality and fairness during debates

v The Moderators encourages participation without dominance

vii The Moderator ensure resolutions are clearly stated and voted upon.

WOMEN COORDINATOR:

i. Shall coordinate the activities of women in the Council.
ii. Shall promote healthy spiritual development of the women of the Council and the Member Churches.
iii. Shall supervise the activities of the women of the Council.
iv. Shall perform such other functions as may be assigned from time to time.

YOUTH COORDINATOR:

i. Shall coordinate the activities of youth in the Council.

ii. Shall promote healthy spiritual development of the youth of the Council and the Member Churches.

iii. Shall supervise the activities of the youth of the Council.

iv. Shall perform such other functions as may be assigned from time to time.

10.0. CODE OF CONDUCT & ETHICAL STANDARDS

i. All officers, trustees, and members of the Council shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the teachings of Christ and the values of the Council.

ii. Leadership shall be exercised with humility, integrity, transparency, and accountability.

iii. Uphold Christian witness and integrity in all duties.

iv. Declare and avoid conflicts of interest.

v. Promote transparency, accountability, and fairness.

vi. Treat all members with dignity and respect.

vii. Maintain confidentiality where required.

viii. An Officer who accepts the office must make the necessary sacrifice to maintain his/her duties.

ix. Apologies: It is etiquette and intelligent to send apologies with worthy reasons well in advance, with the exception of an emergency, when it becomes absolutely impossible to attend a meeting of any type.

x. If any officer fails to attend meetings on three consecutive occasions or have the habit of dropping out of meetings every now and again, without adequate apologies and a good reason for his or her absence, that officer's office shall be terminated.

xi. All Officers are accountable to God and to the Council; therefore, are accountable for the documents and properties committed to their charge and should take good care of them.

xii. All documents and properties belong to the Council and must be surrendered to the Council on termination of the office or on demand by the Council.

xiii. No Officer should make personal gain or profit with any business or property of the Council, except as stated in this Constitution.

xiv. Fighting, quarrelling and using abusive language is strictly forbidden. Any such behaviour will be liable to suspension of that officer and further, termination of duties.

xv. Any attempt to break up the Council is a criminal offence, and the officer concerned must be investigated by a committee and submit their reports to the trustees. After investigation, if found guilty of the offence, the person(s) shall be dismissed with immediate effect.

xvi. When a member is appointed to a position in any organization as a representative of the Council, it is considered an honor for the Council. However, if that member ceases to be a part of the Council, they must be removed from the position. This is because the member is in that role specifically to represent the Council; thus, once they are no longer a member, they can no longer fulfill that duty. In such cases, another member will be nominated as a replacement.

xvii. Any officer sent to represent the Council in another organization must bring back reports, and records of the meetings, documents given to him or her must be submitted to the Council.

xviii. Fraudulent dealings or embezzlement of funds shall be prosecuted.

11.0. TRUSTEES

There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Council.

Composition:

i. The Board of Trustees shall consist of appointed denominational leaders

ii. Those selected for their expertise and capacity to develop the Council.

11.1. DUTIES

The Board of Trustees shall have the following duties:

i. Trustees shall ensure compliance with charity law, financial, and safeguarding of assets.

ii. Manage resources responsibly (finance, property, staff, volunteers).

iii. Ensure accountability and transparency.

iv. Protect the Council's reputation and witness as a Christian body.

v. Shall hold legal title of properties of the Council.

vi. Shall sue or be sued in the names of registered Trustees of the Council.

vii. Shall from time to time have the right to demand from the Finance Committee, General Secretary, Treasurer and any officer concerned with the management of properties and funds of the Council every information or report they may require relating to or concerning the properties and funds deemed to have been vested in them by virtue of this constitution or under any act, law, or other enabling authorities.

viii. Shall have the right to call to order any officer of the Council for any act of impropriety.

ix. Shall append their signatures to any document for the acquisition or disposition of any fixed property and shall remain the only valid signatories for such acquisition or disposition.

x. Act in the Council's best interests.

xi. Manage resources responsibly (finance, property, staff, volunteers).

xii. Ensure accountability and transparency.

xiii. Protect the Council's reputation and witness as a Christian body.

xiv. Additional board of trustees members will be appointed based on their expertise, competence, and ability to contribute to the Council's growth.

11. 2. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

i. The Board of Trustees shall consist of seven (7) members.

ii. The President and Church leaders will serve as trustees for the duration of their membership.

iii. In addition to the denomination leaders, additional trustee members will be appointed based on their expertise, competence, and capacity regarding the Council's growth.

11.3. TRUSTEE MEETINGS: Held at least twice yearly.

11.4. TERMINATION OF TRUSTEESHIP:

A Trustee shall cease to hold office, if:

i. He/ She resigns or retires from his/her trusteeship

ii. The membership of his/her denomination is terminated

iii. He/ She becomes insane or incapacitated

iv. He/ She is officially declared bankrupt or found guilty of a criminal offence by any court of competent jurisdiction

11.5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

i. Trustees and officers must declare any personal or financial interest in matters being considered by the Council.

ii. They shall withdraw from discussions or decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

i. A register of interests shall be maintained by the Honourary Secretary.

12.0. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

i. The General Assembly shall be the supreme decision-making body of the Council.

ii. It shall meet at least once a year (Annual General Meeting - AGM).

12.1. Powers include:

i. Approving annual reports and accounts.

ii. Electing officers and trustees.

iii. Amending the Constitution

iv. Reviewing and deciding on membership applications and terminations.

v. other matters deemed necessary by the General Assembly.

12.2. GENERAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

The Annual General Meeting

The highest governing body of the Council shall be the General Meeting, which shall consist of three (3) representatives from each other members church, one representative for affiliate members and elected officers officer of the Council; it shall meet at least once in every year (The Annual General Meeting) and at other times as necessary.

(ii) The business of the General Assembly shall include the election of officers; the adoption of an annual report and audited statement of accounts, the appointment of auditor/s and the transaction of such business as necessary.

(iii) The executive Committee shall submit to the annual Annual General Meeting estimates of the income and expenditure of the Council for the following financial year.

12.3.Calling of General Meetings of Members

The president may designate any of their meetings as a general meeting of the members of the Council. The purpose of such a meeting is to discharge any business which must be in the best interest of the Council.

12.4. Notice of General Meetings of Members

The minimum period of notice required to hold a general meeting of the members of council is 14 days.

13.0. VOTING

i. Whenever possible decisions of the Council shall be taken by consensus but where a resolution is put to vote it shall be decided by a simple majority of voting members presents and voting.

ii. Each member-church shall be entitled to no more than three votes at the Annual General or in the case of Affiliated Members one vote, the vote to be exercised in all cases in person by the appointed representatives of the Bodies of their alternates.

iii. In case of an equality of voting the President (Chairperson) of the Council shall be entitled to a casting vote.

14.0. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

i. The Executive committee shall be composed of two appointed representatives of each member-church, and one representative for Affiliate members.

ii. Individual members of member-churches with specialist knowledge may be co-opted temporarily onto the Executive Committee from time to time as Advisors according to need and the duration will be determined by the Executive committee.

iii. The Executive committee shall be responsible for the general administration of the affairs of the Council, in accordance with decisions and resolutions passed by the General Assembly.

iv. Decisions at the Committee's meetings shall be decided by a simple majority of members present and voting. Each member shall have one vote, and in case of any equality of voting, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

v. The Executive committee may appoint sub-committees with specific mandates including: public relations and fund-raising, community and social advancement projects, education and training, research and publications, and ecumenical relations.

vi. The Executive Committee shall meet at least four times in a year.

vii. The Executive Committee shall have power to adopt and issue Standing Orders and/or Rules for the conduct of its business. Such Standing orders/Rules shall come into effect immediately provided, always that they shall be subject to review by the General Assembly and shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

15. WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The Ways and Means Committee shall consist of all officers of the Council and a representative each of its sub-committees. The Ways and Means Committee shall be responsible for carrying out such business on behalf of the Executive Committee in between meetings of the latter; it shall carry out a periodic and regular audit of the operations of the Council; it shall collate reports from the sub-committees for the Executive Committee; it shall perform such tasks that the Executive Committee shall mandate it to perform.

16. **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

No addition, alteration or amendment shall be made to this Constitution unless full details of the motion for such an amendment are notified in writing to the Secretary and circulated to members of the Annual General Meeting, at least three months before the meeting where such a motion is to be made. Such addition, alteration or amendment shall only be effected if passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members of the Annual General Meeting present and voting.

17.0. SAFEGUARDING & EQUALITY

i. The Council shall uphold safeguarding policies for children and vulnerable adults.

ii. The Council shall not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, disability, or denominational affiliation.

18.0. DISSOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL

In the event of winding up or dissolution of the Council if there remains, after the satisfaction off all is debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among members of the Council, but shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions shall be determined by the members of the Council at or before the time of dissolution.

This constitution was adopted by the persons whose signatures appear below on this 17th day of January 2026

His Grace, Archbishop Dr. E. B. Gbogboade — President

Venerable Superior Evangelist (Dr) Paul Tunde Soile — Hon. Secretary

Venerable Superior Evangelist Sam Nejo — Treasurer