

# **The Constitution of the YN&E Bridge Circuit**

## **Under Section 58 of 'The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD)'**

**Operative from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023**

(As adopted by the Pateley Bridge Circuit Meeting on ??, the Pocklington & Market Weighton Circuit Meeting on ?? and the Bridlington Circuit Meeting on ?? and approved by the Secretary of Conference on ??)

### **Preamble to the Constitution**

The YN&E Bridge Circuit will come into being on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, replacing the previous Pateley Bridge, Pocklington & Market Weighton and Bridlington Circuits.

The new Circuit provides an opportunity to embrace new ways in supporting and encouraging God's work. In particular, reshaped governance arrangements will seek to ensure that governance and trusteeship is done with excellence, and in such a way as to release as much time, energy and space to local churches to flourish in their mission and ministry.

Section 58 (Circuits with Modified Constitutions) of CPD enables us to express our new ways of working in the following constitution.

## **The Constitution of the YN&E Bridge Circuit of the Methodist Church**

### **1. General**

#### **a) Name**

The Circuit to which this Constitution applies is the YN&E Bridge Circuit, hereafter referred to as the Circuit.

#### **b) Authority**

This Constitution is applicable to the Circuit under Standing Orders 580, 581, 582, 583 and 584 of "The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church", hereafter described as CPD.

#### **c) CPD**

Under Standing Order 584 (2) nothing within this Constitution shall be deemed to be contrary to

- (i) Standing Order 500 (nature and purposes of a Circuit)
- (ii) Standing Order 502 (chairing and notice of meetings)
- (iii) Standing Order 503 (eligibility for appointment)
- (iv) Standing Order 504 (duration of appointments)
- (v) Standing Order 505 (connexional funds)
- (vi) Standing Order 514(2) (list of members of the Circuit Meeting)
- (vii) Standing Order 515 (responsibilities)
- (viii) Standing Order 516 (memorials)
- (ix) Standing Order 517 (procedure at the Circuit Meeting)
- (x) Standing Order 518 (irregularities)
- (xi) Section 52 (Circuit ministry)
- (xii) Section 54 (Circuit invitations and appointments)
- (xiii) Standing Order 550 (obligatory appointments)
- (xiv) Standing Order 552 (ex-officio membership)
- (xv) Section 56 (local preachers)
- (xvi) Standing Order 574 (Chair's rights on appointment of lay employee)

## **The Circuit Trustees**

### **a) General**

A Circuit Trustees Meeting will be established as the meeting designated to fulfil the role, functions, responsibilities and powers of the Circuit Meeting for the purposes of the Deed of Union, Model Trusts and Standing Orders contained in CPD. The Circuit Meeting is hereafter described as the Circuit Trustees.

### **b) Responsibilities of the Circuit Trustees**

The work of the Circuit Trustees is primarily to ensure the good governance, in its broadest sense, of the Circuit, liberating as much time, energy and space to the local churches for mission and ministry.

The Circuit Trustees will have primary oversight over matters of:

- Trusteeship
  - Legal and Safeguarding
  - Financial and Property
  - Constitutional Matters
- Other matters, such as:
  - Nomination of Candidates for Ministry
  - Responses to recommendations from Invitation Committees or similar
  - Elections and Appointments to this and other Methodist and/or regional bodies
  - Appointment of the Circuit Stewards

### **c) Chair of the Circuit Trustees**

The Chair of the Circuit Trustees will be defined and appointed in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 502. The Chair will at the start of each Connexional year, appoint in writing a deputy with the right to preside over the Circuit Trustees as and when requested by the Chair and the Circuit Stewards. The appointment of a deputy will not alter the composition of the Circuit Trustees as defined in Section 2 (d).

### **d) Composition of the Circuit Trustees**

#### **(1)**

The meeting will consist of the voting members listed in sections (i) to (v) below. Anyone appointed who is under the age of 18 will be able to attend and speak on all matters but will not be able to vote on managing trustees' business. The names of the voting members will be registered each year with the Charity Commission as the Charity Trustees of the Circuit. In cases of absence, none of the members of the Circuit Trustees will be eligible to appoint substitutes.

(i) The Superintendent Minister of the Circuit.

(ii) All ministers appointed to the Circuit and those authorised to serve under SO 732 and 733.

(iii) The Circuit Trustees Secretary

(iv) The Circuit Stewards

(v) One representative for each Mission Area within the Circuit. Each former Circuit is regarded as a Mission Area. Each representative will be elected for a period of 3 years. The representative can be re-elected but can usually serve for a period of no more than 6 consecutive years. These representatives will each be elected at an Annual Mission Area Meeting.

#### **(2)**

(i) The term of service for each member of the Circuit Trustees will normally start from 1<sup>st</sup> September of the relevant Connexional year.

(ii) Where casual vacancies occur during the year, the appointing body may nominate replacements. The Circuit Trustees will fulfil the role of the relevant Mission Area Meeting in appointing such persons to the Circuit Trustees until the next MAM and will inform the Charity Commission.

(iii) The Circuit Trustees will meet together at least twice per year, using online as much as is practicable, whilst recognising the need to have some onsite meetings to build and deepen relationships and develop good patterns of working.

#### **e) Communication with the Circuit**

The Circuit Trustees will have at the heart of their work the principle that under God, they are seeking to ensure excellence governance, and the releasing and equipping of time, energy and space in support of local mission and ministry. The Circuit Trustees will communicate with the Circuit in various ways, including:

- (1) Mission Area representatives being a primary conduit of communication from the local to the Trustees and vice versa.
- (2) The Circuit Trustees shall ensure that its minutes are available for any member of the Circuit to be able to view except on rare occasions when matters confidential to the Trustees are recorded. In such cases only headings shall be contained in the version of the minutes made available to members of the Circuit.
- (4) The Circuit Trustees may receive letters and representations from any individual within the Circuit on any issue within its competence.
- (5) All members of the Circuit Trustees will be required to keep themselves actively informed of events, activities and developments within the Circuit, as they are in practice able to do so.
- (6) The Circuit Trustees shall monitor the diversity of its membership to ensure that it adequately represents the make-up of the Circuit. Where gaps are identified, it shall seek to ensure that the views of those not represented are embraced.

### **3. Mission Area Meetings**

Every former Circuit will hold its own Annual Mission Area Meeting. This will comprise all the members of the Church Councils within that Mission Area. Other members and friends of the Methodist Church in each Mission Area will be welcome to attend, but not able to vote. The primary purposes of these meetings will be to:

- To worship, pray and celebrate together testimony to the work of God in the Mission Area and beyond in the past year;
- To receive and discuss an annual report from the Circuit Trustees;
- To appoint a representative from the Mission Area as a Circuit Trustee.

### **4. Reviewing and renewing this constitution**

The ways of working within the Circuit shall be regularly under review and shall inform part of the Circuit Trustee's report to the Mission Area Meetings.