

NORTHERN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity Number 226104

Explanatory Note

The following **Rules** were adopted by unanimous resolution at a Special General Meeting on 27 January 2016, to replace the previous Rules adopted on 23 September 1953 and as amended on 14 April 1999, by resolution passed under the provisions of section 74(2)(D) of the Charities Act 1993.

RULES, with Draft Amendment as of July 2016

1. NAME

The name of the Association shall be the NORTHERN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTS

- a. The promotion of Unitarian principles and values, in accordance with the Objects of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, in the North of England between the Yorkshire Unitarian Union and the North and East Lancashire Unitarian Mission in the south and the Scottish border in the north.
- b. The joining together in fellowship with one another of Unitarian churches and fellowships and individual Unitarians situated within the area defined in 2a above.
- c. The granting of aid to Unitarian churches and fellowships in need of assistance within the Association's area of operation.
- d. To carry out the functions ascribed to a **District Association** of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the Association's area of operation.
- e. To be affiliated to the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

Membership shall be open to:

- a. Churches and fellowships in the Association's area of operation which are in membership of or related to the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, which do not require subscription to any articles

of theological belief, and which make an annual subscription to the Association.

- b. Individuals within the Association's geographical area who are in sympathy with its Aims and Objects and make an annual subscription to the Association before 31 March each year of not less than the minimum amount to be decided by the Committee from time to time.

4. OFFICERS

- a. The Officers of the Association shall be:
 - i. President
 - ii. Secretary
 - iii. Treasurer
- b. The Officers shall be appointed for one year by election at the Annual General Meeting. Retiring Officers shall be eligible for re-election.
- c. In the event of an Officer position becoming vacant during the year the Committee shall have the power to appoint a replacement to fill that position until the next Annual General Meeting.

5. THE COMMITTEE

- a. The Committee shall be the executive body of the Association responsible to the Annual General Meeting for the conduct of the business of the Association.
- b. The Committee shall consist of:
 - i. The Officers of the Association
 - ii. The Minister or Lay Pastor of each member church or fellowship if applicable.
 - iii. Two representatives appointed by each member church or fellowship.
 - iv. A maximum of two ordinary members appointed at the Annual General Meeting or by co-option.
- c. For the purposes of charity law the Committee members are the trustees of the Association.
- d. Meetings of the Committee shall be held at least twice per annum, normally in February and June.
- e. Additional Committee meetings may be held at the request of an Officer or at least three Committee members.
- f. Notice of each Committee meeting shall be sent to all Committee members at least two weeks beforehand.

- g. Each Committee member present at meetings shall have one vote, the President having a casting vote if necessary.
- h. The quorum for Committee meetings shall be three Committee members.

6. GENERAL MEETINGS

- a. The Association shall hold an Annual General Meeting in the autumn of each year at a place and time to be decided by the Committee.
- b. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:
 - i. Receive the Annual Report and Accounts as approved by the trustees.
 - ii. Receive reports from the member churches and fellowships.
 - iii. Elect the Officers.
 - iv. Appoint an Accounts Examiner.
 - v. Transact any other business.
- c. No motion shall be proposed at the Annual General Meeting unless notice has been given in writing to the secretary at least twenty one days before the meeting or unless leave has been given by at least a two thirds majority vote of the members present at the meeting.
- d. Special General Meetings:
 - i. May be called by the Committee.
 - ii. May be called at the signed request of at least five members delivered in writing to the secretary, declaring the nature of the business to be transacted.
- e. Notice and agenda of General Meetings shall be given by the secretary at least two weeks before each meeting.
- f. Voting rights at General Meetings:
 - i. Each member of a member church or fellowship present at a General Meeting shall be entitled to one vote.
 - ii. Each Individual Member present shall be entitled to one vote.
 - iii. Individual Members who are also members of a member church or fellowship shall not be entitled to vote in more than one capacity.
 - iv. The President shall have a casting vote if necessary.
- g. The quorum for General Meetings shall be five members.

7. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

- a. The Financial Year shall begin on April 1st.
- b. The Treasurer shall present a statement of accounts to the Annual General Meeting.
- c. Each Annual General Meeting shall appoint an Independent Examiner for the following year, who shall not be a member of the Committee.

8. ALTERATION TO THE RULES

- a. No additions to, or alterations of, these rules shall be made except at an Annual General Meeting by resolution passed by a majority of at least two thirds of those members present and voting.
- b. Additions or alterations may be proposed by:
 - i. The Committee.
 - ii. A minimum of five members submitting the details in writing to the Secretary.
- c. Notice of any proposal to change the rules of the Association shall be sent to all members of the Association at least one month before the Meeting at which they will be considered.

9. PROVISION FOR WINDING UP THE ASSOCIATION

- a. Any proposal to terminate the activities of the Association and dissolve the charity shall be subject to the same requirements for notification and voting as for Alteration to the Rules in clause 8 above.
- b. If such a proposal is approved by a two thirds majority of those present and voting at an Annual General Meeting, the net assets of the Association, after settlement of any proper debts and liabilities, shall be given or transferred to the British and Foreign Unitarian Association (Incorporated) of Essex Hall, 1 to 6 Essex Street, London, WC2R 3HY, to be held in trust for furtherance of the Aims and Objects of the Northern Unitarian Association in the North of England in the future.
- c. If the British and Foreign Unitarian Association no longer exists the assets shall be given or transferred in trust to its successor or, failing that, to such other charitable institution or institutions having similar aims and objects to those of the Association.