

CONSTITUTION

OF THE EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS

REVISED OCTOBER 2010

1. The organisation shall be known as ‘The Evangelical Fellowship for Lesbian and Gay Christians’. This may be abbreviated to ‘EFLGC’.
2. EFLGC fully supports the Statement of Conviction and aims of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. It operates with particular reference to evangelical lesbian and gay Christians and evangelical churches. Its agenda for action is set by its own aims, hereinafter referred to as the Aims of the Fellowship and set out in schedule 1.
- 3a. Subject to clause 3b, membership shall be open to all who accept the LGCM Statement of Conviction and the Aims of the Fellowship and pay the EFLGC annual subscription. Membership of LGCM is to be encouraged but shall not be obligatory.
 - b. The Committee shall have the right after due consideration to refuse membership or to expel from membership. Any person thus excluded from membership shall have the right of appeal to a General Meeting.
4. Members shall pay such annual subscriptions as shall, from time to time, be agreed by a General Meeting. The subscription year shall be the calendar year.
- 5a. The Annual General Meeting shall be held annually in February, March, April or May to review the activities of EFLGC, elect a Committee, consider future plans and any other matter. A minimum of six weeks’ notice in writing shall be given to members; every endeavour shall be made to publicise the date at least three months in advance.
 - b. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by ten members or twenty per cent of the membership (whichever is the least), or by the Committee. A minimum of two weeks’ notice shall be given with an agenda and details of any resolutions to be proposed.
 - c. The quorum for any General Meeting shall be ten members or fifteen per cent of the membership (whichever is the higher). Only paid-up members may vote at General Meetings.
- 6a. A Committee shall be appointed at each Annual General Meeting to administer the affairs of the Fellowship. Committee members must be paid-up members of EFLGC, and at least one Committee member must be a paid-up member of EFLGC and LGCM. The nominations shall be sent to the Secretary with the consent of the nominee no later than twenty eight days in advance of the Meeting. Each nomination must have a proposer (also an EFLGC member). No fewer than three and no more than six persons shall be elected as Committee members by simple majority vote of those present at the Meeting and of those whose postal votes shall have been received by the Secretary at least seventy two hours before the Meeting.
 - b. The elected Committee shall appoint a Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer from its number, and it may in addition co-opt up to two other persons.
 - c. If unusual circumstances prevent the provisions of clause 6b from being fully observed, then the provisions thus affected may be set aside for a specified period by a two-thirds majority decision of a General Meeting. The said specified period shall end at the latest by the subsequent Annual General Meeting.
 - d. The quorum for the Committee shall be three of its number.
- 7a. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts which shall be presented at each Annual General Meeting. They shall be examined by a person appointed by the previous Annual General Meeting; that person shall not be a Committee member.
 - b. EFLGC may not borrow or get into debt (except for a bank overdraft of up to £25) without the authority of a General Meeting.

- c. The treasurer may not spend any amount of money without the prior knowledge and approval of two other Committee members.
- 8a. The Membership List shall be confidential to the Committee and to the Regional Co-ordinators appointed by and accountable to the Committee. A member's name, address or telephone number may not be passed to other members or any outside person or organisation without that member's written consent.
- b. Any information held now or at any time in the future by EFLGC, or by any person acting on behalf of EFLGC, which includes names, addresses or other personal details of individuals who are or who have been at any time members of EFLGC or members of any affiliated group, and which has been acquired by EFLGC as a result of those individuals' membership of EFLGC or of an affiliated group, shall be treated as having been acquired for the purpose of carrying on the work of EFLGC and shall be held subject to an undertaking to hold it in confidence. The Committee shall take all steps to ensure that material containing such information shall be protected under the provisions of part 11 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.
- 9. The Constitution may be amended only by a General Meeting. Proposed amendments must be circulated to all members at least two weeks before the Meeting. Any proposed amendment shall take effect only if approved by at least two thirds of those paid-up members at the Meeting and of those postal votes of paid-up members received by the appointed person at least seventy two hours before the Meeting.
- 10. EFLGC may be dissolved only by a postal ballot of paid-up members; a simple majority of votes returned shall be decisive: three weeks shall be allowed for postal voting. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened, which shall determine by simple majority vote how the remaining funds, after all liabilities have been discharged, shall be assigned. If such Extraordinary General Meeting should prove inquorate, any such funds shall be assigned to LGCM, or in case LGCM should have been dissolved, to any organisation with similar aims, as the Committee shall think fit.
- 11. EFLGC may undertake any lawful activity in furtherance of the Aims of the Fellowship and the LGCM Statement of Conviction.

12. Members shall receive a copy of the EFLGC Constitution.

Schedule 1: The Aims of EFLGC

- (a) To support evangelical Christians who know they are homosexual, * or who are seeking to come to terms with their sexuality.
 - (b) To help other evangelical Christians to re-examine their understanding of human sexuality, and to increase their understanding of homosexuality.
 - (c) To encourage members to witness to their faith to others who are homosexual, and to witness to their convictions about human sexuality within the Church.
- * 'Homosexual' is used as a neutral word in its strictly scientific sense as describing persons who are attracted to other persons of the same sex. We are choosing not to use 'gay' and 'lesbian' because each can have additional or slightly different meanings.

LGCM Statement of Conviction

It is the conviction of the members of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement that human sexuality in all its richness is a gift of God gladly to be accepted, enjoyed and honoured as a way of both expressing and growing in love, in accordance with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ; therefore it is their conviction that it is entirely compatible with the Christian faith not only to love another person of the same sex but also to express that love fully in a personal sexual relationship.