

# CONSTITUTION OF ST URSULA'S CHURCH, BERNE

## **Article 1    Name**

St Ursula's Church, Berne is an association in accordance with Article 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code.

## **Article 2    Seat**

The seat of the association is in Berne, c/o St Ursula's Church, Jubiläumsplatz 2, 3005 Berne.

## **Article 3    Objects**

The objects of the association are:

- (a) to provide and maintain Anglican worship for all persons who accept the rites and ministrations of the Church of England, in accordance with Canon Law applicable within the Church of England and its Diocese in Europe;
- (b) to provide financially for one or more ordained priests of the Anglican Communion to serve as Chaplain or Assistant Chaplains;
- (c) to provide pastoral care for and to foster Christian fellowship and witness among English-speaking residents in the Canton of Berne and its environs;
- (d) to provide for the running of a Junior Church (Sunday School).

## **Article 4    Membership**

- (1) Membership of the association is open to all those baptized persons living in the Canton of Berne and its environs and worshipping at St Ursula's Church, Berne.
- (2) Voting members of the association are all those members who have been inscribed on the Electoral Roll.

- (3) The electoral roll shall be prepared in accordance with the Church Representation Rules made under the provisions of the Synodical Government Measure of the Church of England.

## **Article 5 Finance**

The association shall be financed by the voluntary contributions of its members. All fund-raising activities held for its benefit shall be subject to the approval of the Church Council.

Members of the association are not personally responsible for the association's liabilities, which are guaranteed solely by its assets.

The Annual General Meeting may decide to collect an annual subscription of not more than Fr 50, but only insofar as and as long as the expenses of the association are not covered by voluntary contributions and its assets.

## **Article 6 Organization**

The organs of the association are:

- (a) the Annual General Meeting of Voting Members
- (b) the Church Council
- (c) the Auditors

## **Article 7 General Meetings**

Annual and other General Meetings shall be held in accordance with the Church Representation Rules made under the provisions of the Synodical Government Measure of the Church of England.

## **Article 8 Modification, Dissolution**

- (1) A motion relating to proposed alterations to this Constitution or to the amalgamation or to the dissolution of the association can be voted in a meeting only if it comprises at

least 30% of the voting members. Such a motion must be carried by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority. No change may be put into effect without the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese.

If the first meeting does not comprise 30% of the voting members, a second Meeting shall be convened at least fourteen days after the first, and the motions voted by this second Meeting shall be valid, whatever the number of voting members present, provided there is a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority in favour.

- (2) Any proposed alterations to the Constitution or the amalgamation or the dissolution of the association must be communicated in writing to the voting members, to arrive at least fourteen days before the meeting at which they are to be discussed.

## **Article 9 The Church Council**

- (1) The association is represented by the Church Council. The composition, powers and functions of the Council shall be as provided for in the Synodical Government Measure of the Church of England, and any rules made under its provisions, in particular the Church Representation Rules.
- (2) The number of members to be elected at the Annual General Meeting shall be six, or such other number as the meeting shall determine in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.
- (3) A majority of the Council shall be actual communicant members of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England

## **Article 10 Representation**

The Church Council shall regulate the representation of the association with third persons or parties, the Chairman, the Treasurer and such Churchwardens as are members of the Church Council having signatory powers.

### **Article 11 Appointment of the Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain(s)**

The Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain(s) shall be appointed according to the procedures set down in the Diocesan Handbook, and shall hold the licence of the Bishop of the Diocese.

The Church Council shall be responsible for applications to the relevant Swiss authorities for whatever permits may be required in connection with the employment of the Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain(s).

### **Article 12 Dissolution**

- (1) In the event of the dissolution of the association, the liquidation shall be effected by the Council then in office.
- (2) The disposal or further use of the net assets of the association after payment of liabilities shall be a matter for the Bishop of the Diocese in consultation with the Council.
- (3) In no case can members of the association claim that the assets shall be divided amongst themselves.

### **Article 13 Conflict of Laws**

In case of any conflict between Canon Law in the Church of England and the Swiss Civil Code, Swiss law shall prevail.

### **Article 14 British Embassy**

The position of the Chaplain as Honorary Chaplain to the British Embassy is not governed by this Constitution.

This constitution was adopted on 22 March 1981. It was revised at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 25 June 1995 and at the Annual General Meeting held on 24 March 2002.