

Consideration of how the Church of Swindon in its many expressions might be supported when they want to collaborate.

The Executive of Swindon Churches Together (SCT) value your interest and prayer and support in proposing a good working framework for the future:

We feel that there needs to be a light touch, but clear means for differing Christian congregations to be able to fairly, orderly and effectively come together as and when it is most helpful to magnify the Christian witness in the name of the Gospel (Jesus commands that we may be One (John 17.21)).

We do not yet know, which way the churches in Swindon as a whole, want to go. Fundamental questions include:

- We need to consider whether Swindon Churches Together is a gathering of individual Christians or whether it has a more representative function as a body representing the Christian churches in the town as a whole. Clearly a *Churches Together* body carries weight that a looser gathering of Christians is unable to do.
- The SCT Exec believes, it is right is to work on adapting the Churches Together in England model constitution to adapt it to our local needs, to work on our vision and purpose. We may also need to consider, in the absence of such vision and purpose, whether Swindon Churches Together should be dissolved.

However, the Executive would ask Swindon Churches to consider a way forward in the following way:

1 BASIS

Churches Together in Swindon unites in pilgrimage, those Churches which, acknowledging God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves:

- to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is His body and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

AIM

To find common ground, and to work together to build God's Kingdom.

STRUCTURE

Convenor, Treasurer and Secretary: From the Churches and Annually elected.

Work on a quorum basis where if a critical number of people meet the meeting is viable. The Swindon Churches Together would be overseen by the Enabling Group which consists of those with oversight of member congregations. You are welcome to see and discuss the full document with Steve Henderson or download load it – it has 3 of A4sides from:

http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/257506/Home/Resources/Local_Ecumenism/A_New_Framework/A_New_Framework.aspx