



The Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches

CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Information for the churches

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June/ July 2018

EFCC MISSION STATEMENT

**TO BE A FELLOWSHIP OF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES
EFFECTIVELY WITNESSING TO THE GOSPEL IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

We want to achieve this by promoting:-

- **Gospel Truth** Advancing Evangelical Christianity through Independent Churches.
- **Gospel Fellowship** Promoting fellowship and encouraging prayer, co-operation and mutual support for the churches as they witness to the gospel.
- **Gospel Independence** Bearing witness to the Scriptural principles of the autonomy of the local church and the freedom of believers in Christ.

EFCC COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2018

The following brethren have been duly elected to serve on the EFCC committee for the next 3 years.

Rev. Gwynne Evans, Hayes Town Chapel

Rev. Andrew Leach, Rochford Congregational Church

Dr Digby James, Quinta Independent Evangelical Church

Our grateful thanks to the above brethren for their willingness to serve the fellowship in this way and we would encourage you to uphold them, and the other committee members in prayer.

POSITION PAPERS – these were duly adopted at the AGM

At the AGM, it was good to welcome and introduce our new General Secretary Designate, Rev Tom Brand. Tom shared something of his heart to encourage more men to come into the ministry and his burden for smaller churches. Pray for Tom, his wife Natalie and their three young daughters, as he takes on the mantle on 1st September 2018. Pray too, for the church as he leaves to take on this new service for God.

EFCC 2019 AGM

11th May – Stony Stratford Free Evangelical Church

EFCC LADIES CONFERENCE

6th April 2019 10 am – 3.30 pm

Speaker: Ann Benton

Venue: Kings Park Conference Centre, Northampton.

Ladies please book the date in your diary for 2019, details will be available later in the year. Option of overnight stay on the 5th April, the ladies would encourage you to do this.

For Ministers and Church Officers and other leaders

IN-SERVICE TRAINING - Saturday 9th June 2018

Venue:

Droylsden Independent Church

Ashton Hill Lane, Droylsden M43 7UB

Details previously mailed to Church Secretaries and Ministers.

Please contact the EFCC office if you need the information.

Devotions

We meet for prayer in the office at 9.30 a.m., please advise us of any prayer matters.

PRAYER SUPPORT

The EFCC Trust Board meeting 19th June 2018

The EFCC Committee 3rd July 2018

Venue for both Bulkington Congregational Church

INFORMATION FOR CHURCH SECRETARIES

Affirmation of Oneness – we are pleased that a good number of churches have returned the card confirming their Affirmation of Oneness, for those churches who have not returned we would encourage you to sign and return the card as soon as possible.

Change of details – we are grateful for those churches who keep us informed regarding changes. Please e-mail changes to Davidsmith@efcc.org.uk (note new e-mail address for David) or send in by mail.

NEW INITIATIVE – churches working together, in November 2017, a letter was sent to all churches for your prayerful consideration. We have some replies, but it would be good for more churches to respond.

If you require a copy of the letter, please contact the EFCC office.

APPLICATION FOR GRANTS

The EFCC Trust Corporation Ltd is responsible for the oversight of a number of Trust Funds including the National Funds. Affiliated churches are eligible to apply for grants from one or more of the Trust Funds as well as from National Funds. Categories:

Ministerial Training/ Ministerial Support/ Welfare/ Evangelism/ Renovation, Repairs and Maintenance/ General Purpose.

Education Fund - We have limited funds available for small grants, we would welcome applications for their use, the funds are available for children of ministers employed full-time by member churches.

Grants up to a maximum figure of £10000 are considered based on the individual circumstances of the church applying, loans will also be considered on an application by application basis, possibly for larger projects such as church building extensions/renovation/new

builds. One of the key areas is Ministerial Training/Support, EFCC would want to offer practical support to churches to enable them to consider calling a Minister. EFCC, through their representative Bill Dyer, would work closely with a church as finance is part of a fuller support package.

The Trustees meet three times per year, usually in February, June and September to consider all grant applications. In the case of a particular need it may be possible for an interim decision to be made prior to the next trustee meeting.

Completed application forms need to be returned to the office about 4 weeks prior to a meeting.

Grant application forms are available from Mr A R Harrison, EFCC, P O Box 34, Beverley HU17 0YY or by e-mail – efcc@efcc.karoo.co.uk

The Lady Hewley Trust – Financial assistance for Ministers

The trustees meet twice a year in June and November to consider grant applications in instances of need and hardship.

Grant application forms are available from the EFCC office.

Robinson Trust

Samuel Robinson's Charities link up of 2 separate charities and are over 200 years old. It provides grants to ministers (serving and retired) and to widows of ministers in cases of need. Churches qualifying include Baptist, Congregational, Presbyterian and URC and from its title your group of churches would appear to qualify,

They normally deal with most of the grant applications in June each year. Grants are dealt with by Miss E.A. Lawson – e-mail ealawson@btinternet.com

The Coward Trust

Details are on their website (below) – contact clerk Rev. Roz Harrison - e-mail cowardtrustclerk@gmail.com

<https://cowardtrust.wordpress.com/>

12TH WECF TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Details with this newsletter – an “Expression of Interest” form can be downloaded from the EFCC website – take International tab then under WECF. Poster for churches.

GDPR FAQs

1. What about payroll?

Clearly payroll comes under GDPR, although the practice of most churches – keeping payroll data confidential, not sharing bank account details, not leaving salary slips on the back table for minister to pick up – would suggest that they already have a payroll policy that meets GDPR. If that is the case, there is no need to mention payroll explicitly in your GDPR policy.

2. What about keeping records?

Records that contain personal data should only be kept as long as justifiable – e.g. HMRC dictate that payroll and gift aid must be kept a minimum of six years. The practice of keeping everything ‘just in case’ cannot continue if personal data is involved.

3. But registers might be necessary in the future to prove whether or not someone was at an event!

Correct – but that’s nothing new and few people keep old registers for very long! However, if you decide that in case there is an issue in the future, you should keep a record of, say, who was at mums’n’tots, then minimal data retention is the order of the day. A child’s name and date of birth should be sufficient to identify them in the future. Address and parental contact details would not be appropriate to store.

4. Is it always necessary to get consent for email marketing?

Yes. So, if you want to invite your mums’n’tots families to a carol service, they must consent to your use of email. But that’s simple - have a line on the registration form that asks, ‘May we email you details of other events in the church?’ However, the requirement for consent would not extend to church members or regular worshippers – you are emailing them with information to allow you to legitimately run the church.

5. How long before I need to ask for consent again?

There is no clear guidance on this. The best guess is 2 – 3 years, depending on how much data you are holding and how sensitive it is.

6. Do we need permission from our people to display their name on a notice board?



No, if you are only displaying a name, there is no requirement for consent. However, if you are displaying their address as well, it would be best practice to ask them first.

7. Do we need to register with the Information Commissioner's Office?

Probably not - the exceptions under the Data Protection Act are the same under the GDPR. As many churches were exempt from registering under DPA, that will also be the case under GDPR.

8. Do we need to tell people to destroy old membership lists?

Not specifically, but many churches add a line at the front to say this is the latest list, please destroy your old one. Many churches also add something like this: *"This list is made available for the sole use of the regular worshippers at _____ Church and must not be disclosed to any third parties, used inappropriately or for personal benefit."*

9. Do we need to say anything to those who give us money?

That's already partly covered if you mention Gift Aid in your policy. You may wish to include a line in your Privacy Notice that says something like: *"When you give us money, you may disclose your bank account details. These will never be stored by the church. Almost every other form of donation will only disclose your name, and perhaps address, to us."*

10. What if I get a donation from CAF or Stewardship?

Number 9 probably answers this.

11. At what age does a child become responsible/have right of access to the data held about them?

The Information Commissioner does not specify a particular age for children to be able to make a Subject Access Request. The decision is left to the Data Controller to determine whether or not the child is competent to understand the information held.

Thirteen is often used as, when offering internet-based services to children in UK, only children aged 13 or over can consent for themselves. (This is the age proposed in the Data Protection Bill and is subject to Parliamentary approval).

A wide-ranging reference document can be accessed at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/applications/children/>



12th Triennial WECF Meeting United Kingdom



**HEBRON HALL
CHRISTIAN CENTRE,
DINAS POWYS, WALES**

27 to 31 May
2019

- ♦ A convenient venue for road, rail and air transport from London
- ♦ A few miles from Cardiff
- ♦ Situated in a lovely part of the country
- ♦ Within easy reach of the seaside
- ♦ Within easy reach of many interesting places
- ♦ See www.hebronhall.org

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev Philip Swann
Minister at Llanelli Free
Evangelical Church

PLAN TO ATTEND START SAVING NOW

The cost for a 4 night stay with meals from Monday evening meal to Friday breakfast including linen hire will be approximately

£240.

This includes conference fee and use of the centre, swimming pool, tennis courts, tea and coffee etc. Reductions for children. Excursions will be arranged, payable at the time.

Don't miss this opportunity to share what God is doing in your fellowship and to learn what is happening in the rest of the WECF family.

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