

Becoming a Member of ICS



As a Member you can help us witness to Jesus Christ in Europe and beyond. We are a voluntary agency. Members are the core of our support base and we encourage them to pray, attend the Society's meetings, and volunteer time and energy in any way that they can.

All Church of England mission agencies depend entirely on donations from churches, trusts and individuals. Individuals support our work by giving and praying as *Friends* of ICS; *Members* can also vote in general meetings and may stand for election to our Council (board).

What does Membership involve?

1. supporting the Society's work through prayer and active interest and involvement to help us fulfil our mission.
2. donating annually a minimum per Member of **£32 full or £16 concessionary (over 65 or unwaged)**.
3. Where a couple are both members (with joint mailings to one address), the second member need only donate a minimum of half his or her own eligible rate, ie: *£16.00 for full rate or £8.00 for concessionary rate.*

How to apply

- please complete the enclosed form (one per person, please)
- make your annual donation (if you have not already done so)
- return the form to Maggie Winham at ICS.

Your application will be put before the ICS Council, who approve all applications. Once a member, in addition to ICS's usual mailings, you will be sent Member mailings such as notice of the AGM.

Your participation will help us spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. **Thank you.**

Membership documentation by post or electronically.

At our AGM in 2011 ICS passed a special resolution to change the articles of association to permit us to send or supply documents and information (**Documents and Information**) to members in electronic form and via our website.

Being able to increase the use of electronic communications will deliver significant savings to the Society in terms of administration, printing and postage costs, as well as speeding up the provision of information to members.

Under the provisions of the Companies Act 2006, we are required to ask you individually to confirm your agreement to the Society sending or supplying the Documents and Information to you as a member of the Society via www.ics-uk.org (**the Website**) and/or in electronic form.

If you would prefer to receive the Documents and Information in paper form rather than via the website, you may elect to continue to do so. You can change this at any time to receive hard copy information by post by notifying the Society in writing of your request.

We will notify you when the Documents and Information are available to access on the Website, and we will provide you with:

- The address of the website.
- The place on the website where the Documents and Information may be accessed.
- Details of how to access the Documents or Information.

Please note that there may be particular circumstances in which the Society needs to send Documents or Information to you in hard copy rather than by website or email, in which case the Society reserves the right to do so.

Please tick the relevant box on the application form to either allow electronic communication or to continue to receive these by post.

Responsibilities of becoming a Member

Please note carefully the following information. ICS is a company limited by guarantee. Members are therefore bound by the ‘constitution’ of the company (its Memorandum and Articles, a copy of which can be obtained from ICS) and any rules relating to Membership in force from time to time.

Please note in particular the following:

1. The object for which the company is established is to 'advance the Christian Gospel by evangelical mission and ministry to English-speaking people throughout the world.' (cl. 3 of the Memorandum).
2. The Basis of Faith of the Society is set out in the Memorandum and on page four.
3. No person shall be admitted to Membership without being first approved by the Council (cl. 3 of the Articles).
4. To become a Member a person must also signify in writing that he/she is in full agreement with the objects of the society and that he/she wishes to promote the same by prayer and giving (cl. 4 of the Articles).
5. Membership requires the payment of an annual subscription, by or on behalf of the Member, which is due on the date of acceptance of an application for Membership by the Council and annually thereafter. The amount is set by the Council annually.
6. Subscriptions must be unrestricted gifts to the general fund of the Society. However, donations *over and above* the minimum may be designated for a particular appeal or object (subject to our usual conditions of acceptance) once the minimum donation has been made to the general fund.
7. Payments made by or on behalf of a Member (e.g. via or grouped with those of a third party) must be clearly identified.
8. Every Member of the Society undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (not exceeding £10) to the Society's assets if it should be wound up while he or she is a Member or within one year after he or she ceases to be a Member...' (cl. 8 of the Memorandum).

Data Protection: data about individuals and organisations that ICS is in contact with are held in its database for the purposes of pursuing its activities. ICS does not pass mailing lists to unconnected third parties. Under company law we are obliged to make a register of Members available for public inspection and to send Members certain information, a requirement that you cannot opt out of.

Basis of Faith

1 Introduction

As members of the Church of England within the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church, *we affirm* the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, of which faith the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion are a general exposition. Standing in the Reformation tradition, we lay especial emphasis on the grace of God – his unmerited mercy – as expressed in the doctrines which follow.

2 God as the Source of Grace

In continuity with the teaching of Holy Scripture and the Christian creeds, *we worship* one God in three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God has created all things, and us in his own image; all life, truth, holiness and beauty come from him. His Son, Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, rose and ascended to reign in glory.

3 The Bible as the Revelation of Grace

We receive the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as the wholly reliable revelation and record of God's grace, given by the Holy Spirit as the true Word of God written. The Bible has been given to lead us to salvation, to be the ultimate rule for Christian faith and conduct, and the supreme authority by which the church must ever reform itself and judge its traditions.

4 The Atonement as the Work of Grace

We believe that Jesus Christ came to save lost sinners. Though sinless, he bore our sins and their judgement, on the cross, thus accomplishing our salvation. By raising Christ bodily from the dead, God vindicated him as Lord and Saviour and proclaimed his victory. Salvation is in Christ alone.

5 The Church as the Community of Grace

We hold that the church is God's covenant community, whose members, drawn from every nation, having been justified by grace through faith, inherit the promises made to Abraham and fulfilled in Christ. As a fellowship of the Spirit, manifesting its fruit and exercising his gifts, it is called to worship God, grow in grace, and bear witness to him and his kingdom. God's church

is one body and must ever strive to discover and experience that unity in truth and love which it has in Christ, especially through its confession of the apostolic faith and in its observance of the dominical sacraments.

6 The Sacraments as the Signs of Grace

We maintain that the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion proclaim the Gospel as effective and visible signs of our justification and sanctification, and as true means of God's grace to those who repent and believe. Baptism is the sign of forgiveness of sin, the gift of the Spirit, new birth to righteousness, and entry into the fellowship of the people of God. Holy Communion is the sign of the living, nourishing presence of Christ through his Spirit to his people; the memorial of his one, perfect, completed and all-sufficient sacrifice for sin, from whose achievement all may benefit but in whose offering none can share; and an expression of our corporate life of sacrificial thanksgiving and service.

7 Ministry as the Stewardship of Grace

We share, as the people of God, in a royal priesthood common to the whole church, and in the community of the Suffering Servant. Our mission is the proclamation of the Gospel by the preaching of the word, as well as by caring for the needy, challenging evil, and promoting justice and a more responsible use of the world's resources. It is the particular vocation of bishops and presbyters, together with deacons and authorised lay ministers, to build up the body of Christ in truth and love, as pastors, teachers and servants of the servants of God.

8 Christ's Return as the Triumph of Grace

We look forward expectantly to the final manifestation of Christ's grace and glory when he comes again to raise the dead, judge the world, vindicate his chosen, and bring his kingdom to its eternal fulfilment in the new heaven and the new earth.

Adopted January 1986; amended November 1997.
Adapted from the Church of England Evangelical Council's Basis of Faith