**EGGS Evangelical Group of the General Synod**

**A proposal to make amendments to the EGGS Constitution at its meeting during the General Synod in York on 5 July 2019**

1. **Amendments to constitutions**

EGGS members will appreciate that every now and then constitutions (of whatever organisation or body) need to be updated/made fit for purpose.

This paper identifies, explains and proposes 4 such changes the EGGS Committee wishes to propose to members regarding the current Constitution.

**2. Members will note that the EGGS Constitution indicates the following:**

*This Constitution may be amended by a two- thirds majority of those present and voting at a meeting of the Group to be held during a Group of Sessions of the General Synod, provided that notice of the meeting, together with the full text of the proposed amendment or amendments, has been circulated to all members not less than 14 days before the meeting.*

This paper is therefore intended to inform members of a meeting scheduled for Friday 5 July and the proposed amendments, which will be voted on at that meeting.

1. **Proposals**

The following proposals are unanimously supported by the Committee. It is proposed that all changes come into effect from November 2020, the beginning of the next General Synod quinquennium:

1. that the current wording of the Constitution replace the word ‘chairman’ with ‘chair’,
2. that the Committee establish a list of non-members who wish to be considered Friends of EGGS and to be kept informed of its activities,
3. that the Basis of Faith of EGGS be brought into line with that of CEEC by the introduction of 2 ‘additional declarations’ (see Annex A),
4. that other inconsequential and minor typographical amendments be made.

**4 Proposals - explanatory notes :**

The Committee share the view that it is more appropriate to change the Constitution with effect from the beginning of a new quinquennium, rather than during a quinquennium, since this is the point at which EGGS membership starts afresh.

1. The Committee considers that the current terminology of ‘chairman’ is inappropriately gender specific and wishes to change it to ‘chair’. This would also be more ‘fit for purpose’ should EGGS elect a woman to the role of chair.
2. The Constitution indicates that EGGS meetings at General Synod *‘shall normally be open to members of the Group and their friends’*. The Committee believes that (i) this might confusingly suggest that it is only the friends of members who are able to attend , and (ii) that there may be some who do not feel able to join a Synod group such as EGGS (e.g. because of their role on Synod or in the wider church) but who nonetheless wish to be more than just informal attenders. This proposal enables the Committee to maintain a list of such Synod members (‘Friends’) in a GDPR compliant manner.
3. The EGGS Basis of Faith has historically been that of CEEC. The justification for this is that EGGS has always been seen as, and has felt itself to be, a part of the wider evangelical ‘apparatus’ established by John Stott and others to enable evangelicals, brought together under the auspices of CEEC, to play a rich and full role in the Church of England.

EGGS is structurally connected with CEEC in that the CEEC’s Constitution offers EGGS four places on the Council – elections for these places take place every four years.

Membership of CEEC requires individuals to signify in writing their personal agreement with the Basis of Faith and Object, including two additional declarations (the CEEC Basis of Faith was amended in 2014 to include two additional declarations - see Annex A).

The Committee proposes that the EGGS Basis of Faith be amended to include the two additional declarations, thereby keeping the EGGS Basis of Faith in line with that of CEEC.

The Committee believes that this proposal is in keeping with the wishes of EGGS members as indicated in the 2017 members survey concerning the Evangelical Alliance Ten Affirmations. In this survey, 87% of those who voted indicated support for the theological position indicated by the Ten Affirmations, a position that is made explicit in the additional amendments to the CEEC Basis of Faith.

1. Members are invited to note and agree other inconsequential and minor typographical amendments.
2. **Voting arrangements**

Members will be given a voting form at the meeting on 5 July in York and asked to vote by secret ballot at the meeting. They will be able to vote on all 4 proposals separately.

Revd John Dunnett, Chair and on behalf of the Committee

5 June 2019

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**Annex A - Additional Declarations to the CEEC Basis of Faith (cf CEEC Constitution sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2)**

4.1.1 We gladly proclaim and submit to the unique and universal Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, humanity’s only Saviour from sin, judgement and hell, who lived the life we could not live and died the death that we deserve. By his atoning death and glorious resurrection, he secured the redemption of all who come to him in repentance and faith.

4.1.2.  We acknowledge God’s creation of humankind as male and female and the unchangeable standard of Christian marriage between one man and one woman as the proper place for sexual intimacy and the basis of the family. We repent of our failures to maintain this standard and call for a renewed commitment to lifelong fidelity in marriage and abstinence for those who are not married.