

Constitution of the Anglican Church of San Fulgencio, Spanish Episcopal Church

Introduction

Our Constitution sets out how we, as the Anglican Church of San Fulgencio, operate and conduct ourselves with transparency, integrity, honesty, and respect.

We are an English-speaking Christian congregation under the care of the Bishop of the Spanish Episcopal Church or IERE (Spanish: *Iglesia Española Reformada Episcopal*). The Bishop permits us to use the liturgy of the Church of England.

The Spanish Episcopal Church is a member of the Anglican Communion. It was organized in 1868, and since 1980 has been an extra- provincial church under the metropolitan authority of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Its cathedral is the Anglican Cathedral of the Redeemer in Madrid.

The framework and spirit of our constitution is in keeping with the laws, regulations, and customs of the Spanish Episcopal Church.

Mission Statement

We strive to integrate the Five Marks of Mission (Anglican Consultative Council 1984) in all areas of our church's life:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
- To respond to human need by loving service.
- To transform unjust structures of society,
to challenge violence of every kind
and pursue peace and reconciliation.
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation
and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

We believe that being the church means protecting the environment; caring for the poor; embracing diversity; rejecting racism; forgiving often; loving God; fighting for the powerless; sharing earthly and spiritual resources and enjoying this life.

Church 'Ethos'

As Anglicans, we see ourselves as the 'middle way' between Catholicism and Protestantism, and traditionally, ecumenical.

Members of our church come from a variety of denominations, as well as various expressions of Anglicanism.

As an Anglican church we belong to the one holy catholic (universal) and apostolic Church.

We look to scripture, tradition, and reason as authority for our faith and worship.

We accept the Holy Scriptures (the Bible) as holding all things necessary for salvation; the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds (Professions of Faith); Baptism and the Eucharist (the two chief sacraments instituted by Christ), and the historic episcopate (bishops).

Our worship follows a recognizably 'central' Anglican liturgical format.

Our leadership style is based on consultation, collaboration, and communication.

The Rector and members of the Church Committee work together to run the church.

The Rector provides spiritual leadership, and members of the Church Committee, as trustees of the church, manage the finances for the congregation.

1. Title and Address of the Church

Anglican Church of San Fulgencio, Spanish Episcopal Church,
Plaza Constitución, 26,
03177 San Fulgencio,
Alicante.

2. The Spanish Episcopal Church

The Spanish Episcopal Church conforms to the provisions of the laws and decrees relating to religious associations in Spain and is constituted according to its own canons. The Anglican Church of San Fulgencio maintains appropriate canonical, synodical, and financial rights and responsibilities.

3. The Jurisdiction

The church is under the ordinary jurisdiction of the Bishop.

4. Safeguarding

A Safeguarding Officer, appointed by the Church Committee, ensures that we comply with all instructions from the Bishop or Spanish Authorities. Please see separate Safeguarding Policy document.

5. GDPR

A Data Compliance Officer, appointed by the Church Committee, ensures that we comply with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Please see separate GDPR document.

6. The Rector

The Rector is an ordained priest of the Anglican Church, or a Church that is in communion with the Anglican Church.

The position of Rector is a part-time, non-stipendiary (self-supporting/bivocational) position.

The Rector is both appointed by, and serves under a licence issued by, the Bishop after consultation with the duly elected representatives of the laity in the church.

The Rector represents the church in relation to third parties, government services and local authorities, and in legal matters.

The Rector will keep the Church Committee fully informed of all matters relating to the church.

The Rector is responsible, under the Bishop, for the maintenance and development of the worshipping and spiritual life of the church.

In these tasks, the Rector is assisted by, and will take counsel with, other ordained ministers, Lay Readers, Assistant Lay Readers, holding licences issued by the Bishop.

The Rector and licensed ministers will be sensitive to, and will take note of, the counsels of the laity on these matters as expressed through the Churchwardens.

7. The Laity: Membership and Provision for Representation

The church is made up of those, whose names are registered on the Membership Roll, which is to be reviewed annually prior to the Annual General Meeting.

A person may be registered who is a baptized Trinitarian Christian and is normally resident in Spain and habitually worships in the church, or who accesses the services of the church via the church's internet meeting system on a regular basis.

Licensed ordained ministers are not permitted to be registered on the Membership Roll.

All registered members of the church have the right to attend the Annual General Meeting, and may speak on items on the agenda, vote on resolutions, and vote in elections for the Church Committee.

Those not on the Membership Roll may attend the Annual General Meeting and may speak by the Chair's permission but may not vote on resolutions or in elections. Names may be removed from the Membership Roll at the request of the person concerned or if they have ceased participating in the spiritual life of the church.

8. The Church Committee

The Church Committee consists of the following members:

Ex-Officio:

The Rector, who will chair the Church Committee
The licensed ordained and lay ministers of the church

Elected:

Two Churchwardens
A Secretary
A Treasurer
A Lay Synod Representative
Four other members

All members (except for the Rector and licensed ordained and lay ministers of the church) will be elected annually, by majority vote, at the Annual General Meeting.

Nominations for places on the Church Committee must be given, in writing, to the Chair before the beginning of the Annual General Meeting.

Nominations must be signed by a proposer and a seconder, and the consent of the person nominated must be sought previously.

Licensed ordained ministers may not stand for election to church offices; licensed lay ministers may do so.

Election may be by show of hands or, if at least five people so request, by secret ballot.

Elected members may not serve for more than six years consecutively. After service of six consecutive years, they may not stand for re-election for a further two years. This may be extended at the discretion of the Church Committee.

Licensed ministers may speak at meetings of the Church Committee but not vote except in exceptional circumstances and by permission of the Chair. This restriction does not apply to a lay minister who has been elected to the Committee by vote of the Annual General Meeting.

The Chair's right to vote is restricted to the exercise of a casting vote in the event of a tied division.

Church officers must be elected members of the Church Committee; there will be no co-option of members. However, the Committee may invite a person to attend and speak at a meeting or for part of a meeting for a particular purpose. This invitation would carry no right of voting.

9. Meetings: The Church Committee

The Church Committee will meet from time to time as it considers necessary, but in any case, not less frequently than once a quarter.

The Rector will normally chair such meetings or if absent, nominate a deputy for a given meeting.

In financial and property matters the Church Committee can validly decide on such purchases and sales of properties as is necessary for the purposes of the church, without requiring the consent of the Annual General Meeting.

The Church Committee will keep the Rector fully informed of all financial matters relating to the church.

The Church Committee is responsible for devising and implementing charity policies.

The lay officers and Church Committee must prepare each year a financial statement for the year past, a budget for the following year and an inventory of its property: buildings (if any) and contents. A copy of this will be sent to the Bishop by the 31st of December in any year. An interim financial statement will be required to set before the Annual General Meeting.

10. Meetings: The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held before the end of November in any year.

Public notice of the date, time and place of the meeting must be given at least two clear Sundays before it is held, and nominations for Church Committee offices and membership, and also items of agenda must be solicited, all these to be submitted to the Chair or Secretary.

The Rector, the Churchwardens, the Secretary and Treasurer will be required to submit reports for acceptance at the church Annual General Meeting.

At the Annual General Meeting, a member on the Membership Roll may make a proposal which has been duly notified to the Secretary and accepted as an agenda item. The proposal is made and is voted for by a majority of those attending.

At the following Church Committee Meeting any proposal made at the AGM will be viewed by the Church Committee whose decision will be final and binding.

11. Liturgical Provision

The liturgical rites used by the duly appointed Rector and other ministers in the church are those allowed by the canons and regulations of the Spanish Episcopal Church under the authority of the Bishop.

12. Local Law

The ecclesiastical and canon law of the Spanish Episcopal Church is binding on the church, its officers and all persons serving it holding the Bishop's Licence. The only exception is where an ecclesiastical law is in direct conflict with a national law of Spain. In such a case the Spanish law takes precedence to the extent of the point at issue and not further.

13. Constitutional Amendments

Any changes to this Constitution shall only be authorized by the Bishop of the Spanish Episcopal Church who shall also have sole authority in the event of any dispute or other question that arises upon the interpretation of this Constitution.

14. Dissolution

In the event of a dissolution being ordered by two thirds or more of its members present at a general church meeting, one or more liquidators as named by the General Church Meeting.

The assets, if any, devolve on the Spanish Episcopal Church or its successor.