
**Constitution of
The Wellington Abrahamic Council
of Jews, Christians and Muslims**

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Constitution

The Wellington Abrahamic Council of Jews, Christians, and Muslims (“the Council”) Wellington, New Zealand

1. Name

- 1.1 The Council shall be called “The Wellington Abrahamic Council of Jews, Christians, and Muslims”. It was originally called “The Wellington Council of Christians and Jews” and agreed to change its name on 14 April 2015.
- 1.2 The Council is a constituent member of the International Council of Christians and Jews.
- 1.3 The Council is an unincorporated association governed as between its members by this Constitution.

2. Aim

- 2.1 The aim of the Council is to foster understanding, friendship and trust between the Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- 2.2 The aim of the Council will be achieved by:
 - (a) Enabling Jews, Christians and Muslims in the wider community to understand their common heritage and appreciate one another's distinctive beliefs and practices.
 - (b) Promoting a more just and tolerant society and combating all forms of discrimination.
 - (c) Working collectively for wider interfaith dialogue, and on projects supporting the Council's aim.
 - (d) Discussing and where appropriate speaking out on issues of mutual concern.
- 2.3 The Council may undertake any other action which will assist in better achieving the aim.

3. Acknowledgements

- 3.1 The Council shall not permit itself to be used for proselytism or divisive purposes. Its task is to promote dialogue. The Council is neither a missionary nor political organisation.
- 3.2 The Council recognises that the Land of Israel has a significant bearing on Christian, Jewish and Muslim relations.

4. Activities

4.1 The Council will promote:

- (a) Meetings and workshops for dialogue.
- (b) Educational work in schools, youth groups, churches, synagogues, mosques and the wider community.
- (c) Occasional lectures and conferences.

5. Membership

5.1 The Council will seek to draw support from the entire range of Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions. Membership shall reflect the range of Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions in Wellington.

5.2 Membership to the Council shall be by invitation of the current members. Members shall be in good standing in their church, synagogue or mosque. The Council may consult informally with the Wellington Regional Jewish Council, the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand, and other representative bodies.

5.3 The Council shall not have more than 15 members. At particular meetings, it shall be permissible to invite additional people with specialist knowledge to share in discussion but not to vote.

6. Voting in Council

6.1 On policy matters, unanimity of those present shall prevail.

6.2 Managerial matters shall be by majority vote, with the presiding chairperson having a casting vote.

7. The Council

7.1 The Officers of the Council shall be elected at the annual meeting.

7.2 The Officers of the Council shall consist of three Co-Chairpersons (with one each being drawn from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities), each acting as chairperson for 12 monthly periods by rotation, and acting as each others' deputies also by rotation.

7.3 The Council may elect Patrons.

7.4 The Council shall have a Secretary and a Treasurer (the roles may be held by one person).

7.5 The quorum for Council meetings shall be five members, of which at least one each shall be from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities.

8. Annual Meeting

8.1 The annual meeting shall be held not later than 30 September each year.

8.2 Written notices of motion may be presented to the annual meeting, and shall be signed by a mover and a seconder. Notices also require 21 days' notice to the Secretary, who in turn must give 14 days' notice to the members.

8.3 Managerial resolutions shall be by majority vote of those present and entitled to vote.

8.4 Voting on policy matters as defined in the aims shall follow the unanimity rule.

9. Finance

9.1 The Council may raise funds to support its local work, the work of the International Council of Christians and Jews, and other international organisations as may be determined by the Council from time to time.

9.2 The financial year of the Council shall be from 1 July to 30 June. A set of financial statements shall be presented at the annual meeting.

9.3 The signatories for the Council bank account may be any of the Chairpersons, the Treasurer and one other member of Council as determined from time to time. The signature of any one shall be sufficient to operate the account.

10. Subscriptions

10.1 The Council may set subscription fees for Council members at annual meetings.

11. Dissolution

11.1 If the Council is dissolved, any surplus funds shall be held for furthering the Council's charitable purposes in Wellington or transferred to another charitable organisation having similar aims to the Council.

12. Alterations to the Constitution

12.1 Any 4 members may propose an alteration and request a special general meeting, unless the annual meeting is to be held within the next 30 days. Written notice, to be signed by at least 4 members, shall be addressed to the Secretary, who shall call a meeting. Notice of proposed alterations is to be given to all members not less than 21 days before the annual or special meeting.

13. Private Pecuniary Advantage

- 13.1 Any income, benefit, or advantage must be used to advance the charitable purposes of the Council.
- 13.2 No member of the Council, or anyone associated with a member, is allowed to take part in or influence any decision made by the Council in respect of payments to or on behalf of the member or associated person of any income, benefit, or advantage.
- 13.3 Any payments made to a member of the Council, or a person associated with a member, must be for goods or services that advance the charitable purposes of the Council and must be reasonable and relative to payments that would be made between unrelated persons.