**The Constitution of the**

**Fire and Rescue Service Chaplains’ Association**

**The aim of the association is the promotion of Fire Service Chaplaincy to those working in or associated with United Kingdom Fire and Rescue Services “for all without exception”**

**Membership of the association**

* Full members of the Association must be active, Chief Fire Officer- appointed Chaplains of a United Kingdom Fire and Rescue Service
* Associate members must be retired Chaplains, or those acknowledged by the committee as having been of real support to the association.
* Associate membership must be supported by members at the AGM
* A voluntary membership contribution of an amount fixed by the conference will be collected at, or by post soon after the conference.
* Chaplains may come from any recognised faith background, or from a non-faith based background.
* Chaplains must have the backing of those in a leadership role within their own faith tradition, or the backing of a referee from a professional background who has known the non-faith based chaplain for at least 5 years.
* Faith-based chaplains may be either leaders or come from a lay background.

**The membership of the committee**

* The Committee will consist of a Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and two other full members of the association.
* There is no limit to the length of time an officer may serve providing they are still an active chaplain and also capable of fulfilling the elected role.
* The Committee will be elected at the annual conference, and must be responsible to the membership of the association.
* A full member of the association may be co-opted by the committee to fulfil a vacant officer’s role on the committee until the next conference, when the post will be available for election
* Officers, by virtue of their election, are empowered to represent the association in important discussions which may affect the association, if all the officers are in full agreement with the proposals without the sanction of the membership. Sanction must be sought to the next Annual General Meeting.

**The annual conference**

* The conference will be held annually, and will aim provide speakers to assist Chaplains in their ministry and personal development.
* The conference will end with the Annual General Meeting of the association.

**The Annual General Meeting**

* Proposals for agenda items and seconded nominations for available officer’s posts must be submitted to the secretary three months before the conference, and can only be accepted by the conference following a majority vote of the members present. Available Officer’s posts will be circulated as they become available.
* The agenda of the A.G.M will be circulated two months before the Conference.
* Only full members of the association may vote.
* Proxy votes of full members may be presented in writing by full members.