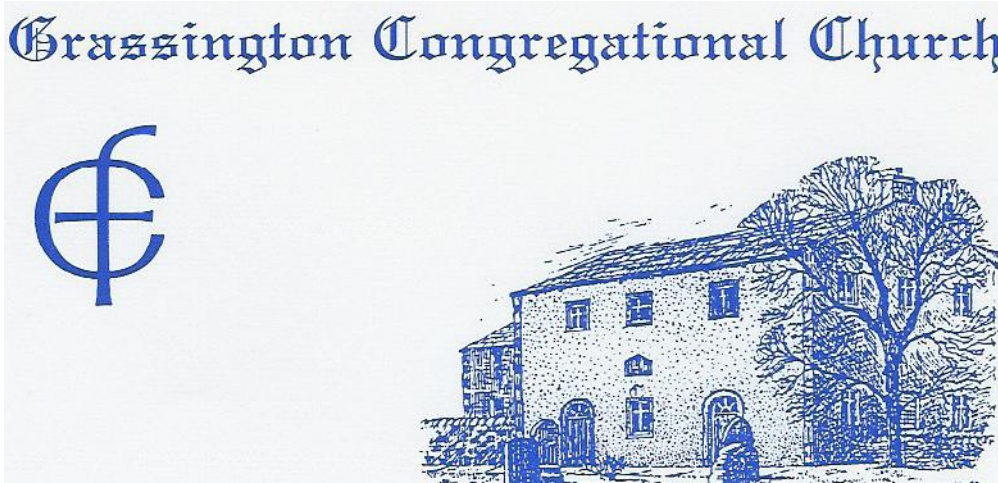


Grassington Congregational Church



Church Rules

1. Any person who is a sincere follower of the Lord Jesus Christ and accepts the Church Covenant shall be eligible for membership.
2.
 - a) Application for membership or for admission by transfer of membership by letters of transfer should be made in the first instance to the Minister or a member of the Diaconate.
 - b) The Minister and/or Deacons will visit the applicant and bring a recommendation to the Church Meeting.
 - c) The admission of a member shall be determined by the Church Meeting.
 - d) New members are to be admitted by receiving the right hand of fellowship before the Church, normally at a celebration of Holy Communion.
 - e) The Minister or Deacons may, at their discretion, recommend that an applicant attend a course of instruction in Church Membership.
3.
 - a) All members are expected to give loyal support the Church, to attend its services and meetings whenever possible and to show evidence of Christian discipleship in their everyday lives.
 - b) The Church membership roll shall be kept under review annually by the Deacons.
4.
 - a) Church Meetings shall normally be held bi-monthly: two clear Sundays notice being given.
 - b) In the event of an emergency all members will be informed of an extraordinary meeting being called.
 - c) At the discretion of the Diaconate, adherents of the Church and visitors may attend Church Meetings but are not permitted to vote.
5. A Church Meeting is constituted where the members so present seek the guidance of the Lord, believing that His Presence is with those gathered together.
6. The Annual General Meeting is held normally in September. At the AGM there will be the election of Secretary, Treasurer, Deacons, and such other Officers and other appointments as the Church shall determine. The AGM will receive reports relating to the life of the Church in the previous year, and Church accounts which have been audited by a person agreed by the Church Meeting.

7.
 - a) The Diaconate will consist of the Ministers, Secretary, Treasurer and the number of Deacons which the Church shall have determined, at least four months previously, as being appropriate. Life Deacons (if any) who may have been so designated by the Church in recognition of long and outstanding service to the Church may attend Deacons Meetings.
 - b) Deacons shall be appointed at the AGM for a period of three years.
 - c) A person may serve as a Deacon for two periods of three years, after which there must be a break of at least a year before being eligible for re-election. A person elected to fill a vacancy will serve out the remainder of the three year period of Office.
 - d) Members of the Diaconate must have been Church members for at least 12 months.
 - e) The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected for a one year period after which time they are eligible for re-election.
8.
 - a) Election of Secretary, Treasurer and Deacons shall be by ballot. For a person to be elected more than 50% of those members present must be in favour. Where such a percentage is not obtained on the first ballot, the candidate with the lowest number of votes will be excluded from a second or subsequent ballot.
 - b) The scrutineers for the election will, if at all possible, be adherents of the Church.
9.
 - a) Nomination for Secretary, Treasurer and Deacons are to be handed to the Church Secretary and be to hand before the Sunday prior to the AGM. The Church Secretary will announce to the congregation on that Sunday the names of all nominees.
 - b) Nominations to fill a vacancy other than at the time of the AGM must be handed to the Church Secretary before the Sunday proceeding the Church Meeting at which the appointment will be made. The Church Secretary will announce to the congregation on that Sunday the names of all nominees.
10. The Church will seek, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit a consensus on all matters. Where this is not possible no decision will be implemented without there being a majority of members voting in favour. The Church may delegate decision making on relatively minor matters or on a specific issue to the Deacons.
11. In calling a Minister, the Church members must have the opportunity of hearing the candidate on at least two services and meeting him/her for mutual discussion. To call someone to the Ministry of the Church requires at least 75% of members present to be in favour.
12. Any alteration to these rules must take place at a Church Meeting, having been proposed and seconded at a previous Church Meeting.
13. Each Church member shall receive a copy of these rules.