



## **The Blackley Centre**

### **Information for those interested in becoming a member**

The Blackley Centre is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Charity No. 1184714) with a membership because it aims to be accountable to those it serves and encourages supportive people and organisations to be involved in developing its work.

#### **The work of the Blackley Centre can broadly be described as:**

- enabling Christians and those of other faiths and beliefs to relate well
- working for peace between people and groups experiencing conflict
- providing a place of welcome, hospitality, retreat and peace

The Centre welcomes applications for membership from those who would like to support this work. Please read through the following information and complete the application if you would like to support the Centre as a member.

The work of the Blackley Centre is described formally in its CIO constitution, where the objects are:

‘(1) To advance education for the benefit of the public in the promotion of reconciliation and peace, religious and racial harmony and equality and diversity, in particular by the provision of facilities and retreat opportunities for Christians and people of all religions and beliefs and to advance religion and in particular the Christian religion in such activity.

(2) The provision of independent mediation services for individuals, organisations and groups experiencing or threatened by dispute or conflict, such as, but not limited to, neighbour nuisance, anti-social behaviour, harassment, bullying, family or community conflict with a view to the preservation of public order and for the preservation and protection of the well-being of such individuals, organisations and groups.’

#### **Liability**

‘If the CIO is wound up, the members of the CIO have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.’

#### **Membership**

‘Membership of the Blackley Centre CIO is open to anyone who is:

- (i) interested in furthering its purposes; and
- (ii) is in sympathy with the general Christian ethos albeit such person need not be Christian and may belong to another religion or belief; and
- (iii) who, by applying for membership, has indicated his, her or its agreement to become a member and acceptance of the duty of members.’ The duty of each member of the CIO is to exercise his or her powers as a member in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the CIO.

## **The advantages of becoming a member of the Blackley Centre:**

- Receive the Centre newsletter by email (at least quarterly)
- Enjoy a member's discount of 10% on Centre event fees
- Opportunity to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting, receive the annual report and accounts and elect trustees.
- Opportunity to attend and vote at general meetings that may be called by the trustees

## **For Personal Members**

The Centre encourages all personal members to contribute to and participate in its life and activities. This includes encouraging members to make a financial contribution. The level of this contribution is for personal members to decide for themselves, but the Centre suggests not less than £24 per year. Personal members who are able to make a larger financial contribution are encouraged to do so and this will be very much appreciated.

## **For Personal Members who are members of the Church congregation at Blackley**

The exception to the above is for members of the congregation of Blackley Baptist Church. The congregation established the Blackley Centre in 1993 and in 2017 agreed to support the additional Centre work of peace-making and inter faith relations and to establish the Centre as a charity. Blackley Baptist Church is also formally the founding member of the Centre charity. Members of the congregation have and continue to support the Centre in many ways. Without their support the Centre would never have existed and members of the congregation already financially contribute to the Church. There is therefore no expectation that members of the Blackley congregation will directly contribute financially to the Centre. However, if they wish to do so, this additional support will be much appreciated.

## **For organisations as members**

'A member may be an individual, a corporate body or an organisation which is not incorporated. An organisation or a corporate body that is a member of the CIO may, in accordance with its usual decision-making process, authorise a person to act as its representative at any general meeting of the CIO. The representative is entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the organisation or corporate body as the organisation or corporate body could exercise as an individual member of the CIO.' Blackley Baptist Church is a founding member of the CIO and it is entitled to be a member.

The Centre encourages all organisations that become members to contribute to and participate in its life and activities. This includes encouraging organisations who are members to make a financial contribution. It is for each organisation to decide the level of contribution it can make, proportionate to its size and budget. The Centre suggests a contribution of not less than £48 per year for organisations, including churches. Organisations who are able to make a larger financial contribution are encouraged to do so and this will be very much appreciated.

## **Constitution**

If you would like to see the constitution of the Blackley Centre CIO, please ask.

## **Becoming a member**

Please complete the brief membership application form and return it to the Blackley Centre. If you don't wish to become a member, please join our email list so that we can make you aware of Centre news and events by emailing Andy Williams

[andy.williams@blackeycentre.co.uk](mailto:andy.williams@blackeycentre.co.uk)