

The Society of Sacramental Socialists Constitution

How we Co-operate

Membership

Membership of the Society is open to practising Anglicans who see themselves as part of the Catholic tradition of Anglicanism. However, it is noted and welcomed that others from different denominational or faith backgrounds will share our aims and outlook.

Those who see themselves as being in solidarity and communion with the Society of Sacramental Socialists are encouraged to apply to the Convening Group to join.

All members of the Society will be expected to accept the Rule of Life, and to re-affirm this annually (in person at the Annual Meeting or, in exceptional circumstances, in writing to the Annual Meeting). Changes to the Rule of Life, theological position, and how we co-operate may only be proposed and voted on at the Annual Meeting.

All members will be expected to attend the Annual Meeting of the Society, and to give this the highest priority possible. Any member absent from the Annual Meeting on three successive occasions without good reason will be deemed to have given up membership of the Society.

Those seeking membership of the Society will be asked to provide a statement of belief and commitment (similar to that required for the Anglican Left e-mail group) to the Convening Group. New members are welcome to join the Society throughout the year and will be formally admitted at the Annual Meeting.

All members of the Society will be expected to pay an annual subscription, to cover the costs of our activities such as publishing, campaigning, maintaining the Web Site, postage, stationery, etc. The amount of the subscription will be agreed at the Annual Meeting. In the first instance, this will be **£12** for those on a wage or stipend and **£5** for the unwaged. The Convening Group may reduce or waive the fee in individual circumstances (e.g. for those on a low wage).

The Convening Group may refuse or withdraw membership of the Society from any individual whose actions or statements are not consistent with the Aims and outlook of the Society.

Members of the Society will receive a small red★star, which may be worn if desired. This symbol is intended to affirm both our place within the fellowship of international Socialism and our commitment to Christ the Morning Star (*Oriens*) who brings new hope to all, and ushers in the dawn of a new age.

Convening Group

There will be a small Convening Group, to be elected at each Annual Meeting, who will be responsible for convening and chairing meetings, managing subscriptions and accounts, publishing press releases, newsletters and papers, organising SSS participation in events (e.g. marches and demonstrations) and maintaining the membership list. One person from the Convening Group will act as Treasurer.

Annual Meeting

There will be an Annual Meeting of the Society, around the Feast of Christ the King. For the foreseeable future, this will be held in London and Birmingham on alternate years. The site of the Annual Meeting may be changed to reflect the geographical spread of membership. The date and site of each Annual Meeting will be decided at the previous Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will include the following items:

- ✦ Election of Convening Group;
- ✦ Financial statement;
- ✦ Agreement of rates of Subscriptions for the year;
- ✦ Reports on the work of SSS, from the members of Convening Group, local and cell groups and individuals;
- ✦ Renewal of commitment to the Rule of the Society;
- ✦ Admission and welcoming of new members.

Each Annual Meeting will begin with a celebration of the Mass.

The Annual Meeting may be combined with other activities, such as a Lecture or discussion, as time allows.

Local Groups

Members of the Society are encouraged to make links with other members, or other people of similar outlook, in their local area or region. If several members come from one area or region, they are encouraged to meet together for prayer, action and support. There will be a local Convenor of the Group chosen by its members.

In time, it is hoped that all members will be part of a local group. It is expected that this will happen organically as the membership grows. Where a local group exists, it is expected that members of the Society living nearby will participate in it if possible.

Cell Groups

The Society recognises and affirms the long tradition of Christians, lay and ordained, meeting in Cell Groups for reflection and fellowship. If members of the Society wish to form Cell Groups amongst themselves, this is to be encouraged. Any member who wishes to be part of a Cell Group may contact the Convening Group, who will endeavour to put them in touch with others.

Partnerships

The Society seeks to work with other organisations and groups, faith-based and/or political, whose aims are in accordance with those of the Society. The Convening Group will be responsible for maintaining links and informal affiliations with such groups, and for working together where practicable.

In addition, it is noted that individual members of the Society will have involvement in other groups and sites of struggle. It is hoped that members will seek to raise the profile of the Society in other groups, and report on their work to the Society.

Communication and Records

The Convening Group will be responsible for publishing details of forthcoming events, newsletters, etc. For reasons of cost and environmental concern, this will be done by e-mail where possible. Members of the Society not on e-mail will receive all communications through the post.

The Society recognises its obligations as part of the Data Protection Act, and will not give out personal contact details or addresses without permission. In addition, the Society recognises that there are issues of security and personal safety for all engaging in left-wing thought and struggle, particularly with regard to fascist, far-right and neo-Nazi groups and websites (such as "Redwatch"). Members of the Society are asked to give due attention to this. The home and work addresses of members of the Society (especially the Convening Group) will not be published.

The Society will maintain a website. This will comprise both public access pages (for news, contact details, etc.) and members-only pages which will be accessed by password. This will include a Discussion Board. All members of the Society will be given the confidential password. There will be a Society e-mail address. E-mail addresses of members of the Society will be kept confidential. The Convening Group will maintain the membership list. The membership list will be reviewed annually and kept up-to-date.

Many members of **SSS** will continue to belong to the wider umbrella e-Group *Anglican Left*, which has been and continues to be a valued source of solidarity and communication. Information on Anglican Left may be found on the website www.anglocatholicsocialism.org, along with much else of interest and value to sacramental socialists.

Prayer

Members of the Society are required by the Rule to pray regularly for one another, the work of the Society and the needs of the world.

Prayer of the Society

*Lord Jesus, our Leader,
we give ourselves to you,
for the cause of your glorious kingdom.
For joy or for sorrow,
for success or for failure,
for life or for death;
now and for evermore.*

Amen.

From the prayers of the 'Catholic Crusade

The Society will publish a book of prayers and liturgies, which reflect our belief in the Catholic Creeds and in the divine revolution, promised by the Gospel and lived in the person of Jesus Christ. This book will include a Little Office, which may be said daily if desired.

In addition, the Convening Group will be responsible for circulating a Society Cycle of Prayer, in which individual members and their sites of struggle will be remembered. Members may suggest intentions to be included by contacting the Convening Group.

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Rochester Report and Windsor Report

We mourn the damaging disunity in the Catholic Movement of the Church of England but for the sake of clarity feel that it is important to state our positions on two key areas of current controversy:

1. We are committed to the ordination of women to the diaconate, priesthood and episcopate.
2. We are committed to justice and equality for gay and lesbian people in all levels of church life.