



CORNERSTONE
COLLECTIVE

Cornerstone Collective of Churches Volunteer Management Policy

1. General policy

1.1 The trustees of Cornerstone Collective of Churches (Cornerstone Collective) recognise the distinctive contribution that volunteers make in working out the organisation's purposes.

1.2 In recognising that contribution, our policy is:

- To value the status of volunteers as a core part of the church with a distinctive but complementary role to that of paid staff;
- To ensure, as far as is possible, that the role of volunteer is mutually beneficial to both the church and the volunteer, managing volunteers in such a way that ensures the needs of both parties are met;
- To provide support, guidance, encouragement and an operating environment that enables volunteers to operate effectively and with appropriate line management where necessary;
- To encourage volunteers to grow in their personal discipleship;
- To provide suitable training opportunities so that volunteers can make a real impact;
- To, as far as possible, integrate volunteers into the church, providing them with regular and relevant communication of strategic decisions;
- To provide a personal point of contact for all volunteers;
- To provide adequate and appropriate facilities, equipment and resources to enable volunteers to fulfil their roles.

2. Taking on and involving volunteers

2.1. Whilst recognising the contribution that volunteers can make, not everyone will be able or suitable to undertake all volunteer roles. The trustees reserve the right to reject approaches from volunteers, helping them to recognise other volunteer opportunities that might be more suitable for them.

2.2. Where volunteer approaches have been rejected, the trustees will, wherever possible, generally explain the reasoning behind this decision directly with the person involved.

2.3. Volunteers for the more public roles in the church will be informally assessed by the trustees or by the leadership team supported by at least one trustee.

2.4. The churches operate a separate safeguarding children and other vulnerable beneficiaries policy. Volunteers seeking to work with anyone encompassed in this policy will be subject to the requirements of that policy.

2.5. Volunteers will be made aware of the key responsibilities of their role in an appropriate way. Methods of communication may include:

- An informal conversation with their point of contact or supervisor;
- The provision of guidelines provided by the church;
- A more formal role description.

2.6. Formally or informally, the expenses policy operated by the church will be explained to the volunteer ensuring that they fully understand what expenses can be claimed and the process for claiming expenses.

2.7. For certain roles, churches may wish to issue a volunteer agreements – available separately to this policy.

3. Management of volunteers

3.1. All volunteers will undertake regular, periodic, informal reviews with their personal point of contact or supervisor as an opportunity to discuss issues, difficulties, performance and outcomes.

3.2. Any training provided must be suitable and relevant to the role of the volunteer. The need for such training must be identified and agreed by the church representative and the volunteer. The cost of any required and agreed training will be met by the relevant church.

3.3. For certain roles and types of training, the trustees can insist that volunteers attend training as a requirement for continuing in the volunteering role (e.g. safeguarding training).

3.4. In some cases, and in order to monitor the work of volunteers and to assess how they are managed, a personnel file may be maintained. Where this is the case, the volunteer will be informed; the information will be stored in accordance with the relevant data protection principles; and any file will be available for inspection by the volunteer at any reasonable time.

3.5. The charity and the volunteers agree that the intellectual property rights of any original work produced by the volunteers for use in the context of any church in Cornerstone Collective automatically transfers to the charity.

4. Standing down or removal of volunteers

4.1. Volunteers are encouraged to give some notice before standing down, but the trustees accept that all volunteers can stand down at any time without giving notice.

4.2. The trustees reserve the right to remove volunteers in circumstances which, after investigation if necessary, are deemed to be detrimental to the church. These include, but are not limited to:

- Persistent incidents of minor misconduct:
 - Continually arriving late;
 - Absence that is not notified and has not been agreed beforehand;
- Incidents of gross misconduct including:
 - Theft;
 - Physical violence towards staff, other volunteers, members of the public;
 - Gross negligence;
- Actions or comments made by the volunteer which are deemed by the trustees to represent a significant defamatory or reputational risk to the church;

4.3. Upon request, the trustees will provide a basic factual reference for all volunteers. This will not extend to providing character references.

5. Adoption of this policy

5.1. The trustees of Cornerstone Collective of Churches reviewed and adopted this policy in July 2021.