

Tres Dias South West of England By-Laws

On the 17th July 2004 the community voted to adopt a constitution which would allow (under English law) Tres Dias Southwest of England to become a Registered Charity. This was done in order to honour a commitment to the Moss Charity (who originally funded TDSW). That commitment was that TDSW would endeavour to become a Registered Charity. Its aim is twofold, firstly to recover Income Tax from the Inland Revenue on all donations received thus demonstrating good stewardship of community funds, and secondly, by virtue of it's status in law, to increased credibility of the movement to the wider Christian community within the U.K.

The attached constitution reflects the statutory requirement of the British Charity Commission and provides the legal framework for TDSW to act as a charity. The local bylaws defined in this document confirms TDSW's commitment to operate in accordance with Tres Dias International's principle and regulation.

1. Constitution

Operation of Tres Dias South West of England (TDSW) shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution adopted by the membership on 17th July 2004 or as amended. This document is intended to be in addition to and to clarify the contents of the Constitution and nothing contained herein may be taken to override the provisions of the Constitution.

2. Purpose

In addition to the Objects defined in the Constitution, the purpose of the organisation is to glorify God through Jesus Christ by developing Christian leaders who will promote the Good News of Jesus Christ in the environments in which they find themselves. The organisation will encourage the use the Tres Dias method of Weekends and Reunion Groups to sustain leaders in their environments.

3. Secretariat

In addition to the legal requirements and responsibilities indicated in the Constitution, the purpose of the Secretariat is to serve as the Board of Directors of the community and to serve, guide and foster growth of the community by:

- (a) Being aware of the needs of the members as they act in their environments.
- (b) Establishing policy or taking other action to meet these needs and to encourage the members.
- (c) Following "The Essentials of Tres Dias."
- (d) Communicating policies and actions of the Secretariat to all members of the community.
- (e) Approving the planning, scheduling, and carrying out of programs in the Tres Dias community (pre-weekend, weekend, post-weekend phases)
- (f) Exchanging support with others Tres Dias communities.
- (g) Informing and promoting dialogue with Christian organisations.

4. Duties and responsibilities of Lay Rectors

Lay Rectors are allowed a great deal of freedom in the planning, preparation and running of their Weekend. There are certain rules that must be followed, however:

- (a) The Weekend must be run in accordance with the Essentials of Tres Dias
The Essentials are just that – essential. Anything not covered in the Essentials is probably safe to change or omit, but if in doubt, the Board will be able to advise.
- (b) Any financial commitment is incurred by the Community and so should be agreed with the Board in advance.

The following sections are intended to act as guidance to assist in Weekend planning.

5. Team selection criteria

Team selection must be agreed between the Lay Rector and the Board. There are some guidelines that have been shown to promote successful teams:

- (a) Follow the “three thirds rule”:
 - i. 1/3 of your team should be experienced team members (5 or more Weekends)
 - ii. 1/3 should have moderate experience (2-5 Weekends)
 - iii. 1/3 should be first or second time team members
- (b) There should be 2 or more Spiritual Directors (SDs). At least one of these must be able to preside at Communion. This means that at least one must be ordained – the other(s) need not be, but it is generally desirable, if only to provide cover for the first SD. It is useful to select SDs from different denominations.
- (c) If a lay SD is chosen, please be aware that it is generally accepted that such a person cannot serve as a table leader or assistant table leader on future weekends. This is therefore most appropriate for persons embarking upon ministry training that would in any case prevent them from serving as lay team members in the future.
- (d) The Community funds 2 SDs. If a third SD is required then alternative financial provision must be made.
- (e) The Lay Rector who has been chosen for the following Weekend will generally be on team as Observing Lay Rector (Assistant Rector). This is a team appointment made by the Board after consultation with the previous Lay Rectors.

6. Venue selection criteria

A number of different venues have been used in the past with varying success. There is no reason why a Weekend needs to be held in one of the past venues, but the following considerations must be addressed in the choice of a venue. The ultimate decision rests with the Board.

- (a) Where is it?
- (b) What is it? (Retreat centre etc)
- (c) Is it available for suitable dates?
- (d) What rooms are available for daytime / evening use?
- (e) What sleeping facilities exist?
- (f) Is there a separate Chapel (or suitable other room)?

- (g) What additional facilities are provided? (OHP & screen, tea/coffee making, piano etc)
- (h) What is the likely cost per head? Is this strictly per head or a total regardless of numbers?
- (i) Is this cost all-inclusive or are there hidden extras?
- (j) What deposit is likely to be required? Is it refundable?

When the Board has received this information, a site visit will be arranged to see the venue and meet the people to confirm its suitability. If this is successful, the venue may then be booked. As such a booking is entering into a contract in the name of the Community, only the Board is empowered to make the booking.

7. Rollos

A major part of the Weekend planning centres on the choice of people to deliver rollos and the writing and critique of the talks. It is entirely the choice of the Lay Rector which rollistas are selected, but again there are rules and guidelines:

- (a) Only lay team members may deliver the 10 lay rollos
- (b) Only the SDs may deliver the 5 SD rollos
- (c) All rollos must follow the official Tres Dias rollo outlines.
- (d) Preferably people should be selected to deliver rollos that they have not previously given. If this is unavoidable, they should be asked to write it afresh rather than deliver a previously-written talk.
- (e) The rollos must all be written and critiqued before the Weekend. No changes may be made to the talks once they have been delivered at the training day. However, the critique may throw up the need for modification. This may only be done with express consent of the Lay Rector.