



Campaigns and Political Activity Policy

Worcester Baptist Church

11 May 2026

(Version 1)

Policy owner: Susanah Stennett, Church Secretary

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| Date | Amendments | Author |
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Section 1 – Purpose

The vision of Worcester Baptist Church is to be:

- ***An inclusive community: A church for people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds, reflecting the fact that Christ’s message is for everyone.***
- ***A worshipping community: A church that delights in God, is devoted to Jesus, attentive to the Bible and faithful in prayer.***
- ***An empowering community: A church where people are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live new lives that reflect credit on Jesus.***
- ***A serving community: A church that makes a difference to our part of the city as we build relationships, engage in loving service, and give generously to the needs of our neighbours.***

This policy outlines how the church conducts any campaign and political activity to further its vision, including via the engagement of speakers, whilst ensuring legal compliance and neutrality.

Section 2 – Definitions

Within this policy these terms are used in the following way:

- * Campaigning: means to promote a cause or legal change or to influence decisions by government, public bodies or the public.
- * Political Activity: activities intended to influence political parties, politicians or policies such as lobbying or campaigning.

Section 3 – Core Principles

Campaigning and political activity by the church must be carried out in accordance with the following principles which also apply to church members and attenders who are acting in a personal capacity but using church facilities or infrastructure to support their activity.

- * Charitable Purpose: all activity must be aimed at furthering Worcester Baptist Church's defined purpose of "the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination" (3.1.1 of the constitution), which are further defined by the vision statement above.
- * Political Neutrality; the church will not support or donate to any political party, candidate or individual politician. Campaigns will be conducted for the public benefit, not to advance party political interests
- * Independence; the church maintains its own voice and independence when campaigning on policies which are also supported by parties.

Section 4 - Procedures and Controls

To ensure that the agreed principles are followed, all campaigns (whether on behalf of the church or by individuals using church infrastructure) must be approved by the deacons. All external speakers must have their background and potential conflict of interests verified by methods including online searching, direct questioning or checks with other parties.

As part of the approval process for activity which is on behalf of the church and for the engagement of speakers, deacons will consider a risk assessment to identify potential damage to reputation, financial or regulatory risks. It will be recorded within deacons' meeting minutes or conducted separately dependent on need. Meeting records will also show any monitoring of the impact of campaigns and any associated spending.

Speakers will be provided with guidance about expectations in relation to church purpose and values, including prohibited content, appropriate language and information about audience, diversity and health and safety issues via access to relevant policies. A guideline for relevant content is at appendix 1.

Section 5 – Election Periods

During pre-election periods, additional care will be taken to ensure neutrality, as per Charity Commission Guidance CC9.

Section 6 – Non-Compliance

Breaches of this policy will be taken seriously with the potential for disciplinary action in relation to deacons or staff who do not follow it.

Appendix 1

Suggested email content for invited speakers, to be adapted or used as reference for each invitation:

Thank you for being willing to preach/speak at (name of event) at (location) on (date at start and finish time) on:

- **Topic/Theme:**
- **Audience:** (likely numbers, demographics, any access needs within the audience eg hearing loop - any relevant context or background about the audience)

In preparation, it might be useful to read our vision and values statements on our website, as well our policies which are stored there. In particular, we follow a Safeguarding Policy which sets out our framework for safety and who to advise about any concerns, as well as a Campaigns and Political Activity to ensure our political neutrality.

Please let us know any access needs which we can meet to enable you to participate fully in the event. We will pay a fee of £75 and reimburse any reasonable travel expenses by bank transfer if we can agree these in advance.

We usually record talks to upload to the church website but can also record without uploading or not record at all. Please let us know any preferences.