

Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund

Registered Charity 209376

Transition to Charitable Company: Key points

In 2020, the Gospel Standard Bethesda Fund (GSBF) trustees, in the fear of the Lord, began to take steps to change the legal status of the charity from an unincorporated structure, to an incorporated one.

Due to COVID-19, it was not possible to hold open meetings to explain fully the rationale behind the move and the need to ensure that the GSBF was set up to address the challenges facing charities in the twenty first century.

Although the trustees endeavoured to communicate with subscribers and other interested parties as to the way forward, there were some concerns raised by a few that needed further consideration. Consequently, the trustees prayerfully reviewed the matter and have now produced a detailed Information Sheet to explain the reasoning more fully behind the proposed move from an unincorporated charity to an incorporated one, trusting that this will address any concerns.

The key points from the Information Sheet can be summarised as:

- The objects of the proposed incorporated charity will remain the same as set out in the current trust deed and as envisaged by Bethesda's founders.
- The proposed incorporated charity will continue to hold fast to the beliefs and truths contained in the Gospel Standard Articles of Faith.
- The provision for trustees to consider 'exceptional' applications from those who do not meet the Charity's specified entry criteria for the Bethesda Homes and flatlets will remain.
- The incorporated charity will allow Bethesda to become a legal entity that is able to enter into contracts and property transactions in its own right together with giving the trustees added protection in their responsibility as custodians of Bethesda and its operation.
- The proposed incorporated charity provides stronger governance and public accountability as, it will be operating under and subject to both the Companies Act and the Charities Act.
- The proposed incorporated charity will provide mechanisms that are similar in operation to the current trust deed to allow supporters to express their opinions and have their voice heard.
- The proposed incorporated charity will continue to recognise its responsibility in relation to its sister charities that seek to serve the GS causes of truth.

The trustees are earnestly seeking the Lord's appearing to know His perfect will for Bethesda. The proposal to move from an unincorporated to an incorporated charity has not been made lightly but prayerfully and the trustees value your prayerful support.

M Ridout
Chairman GSBF
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