

**WHO'S IN AND WHO'S OUT** *(Eight people are gathered on chairs in a semi-circle at the front)*

**Person 1**

Welcome, everyone, to the first meeting of the provisional church council for our new church. It's really exciting to be able to start with a blank sheet of paper and not carry any of the baggage of any other church with us. So, the first thing that I think we need to do is to decide on a name.

**Person 2**

Well I think that's straightforward. It should simply be Wharfedale Church. That is who we are and where we are. Nothing else . . .

**Person 3**

But I'm not sure about the word 'church'. That has us all kinds of connotations in the minds of non-churchgoers. I would prefer 'fellowship'.

**Person 1**

OK, Wharfedale Fellowship it is. Agreed?  
*(Others agree).*

**Person 2**

No. . . I'm not sure that I could be part of any group that discarded the name of church so casually. I'm sorry; I can't have anything more to do with this meeting. *(Exits)*

**Person 1**

Oh. . . Right. . . That's a shame. . . But is everyone else happy with Wharfedale Fellowship?

**Person 4**

Well, actually I would be happier with Ilkley Fellowship. After all we are in Ilkley and there is a significant difference between Ilkley and the rest of Wharfedale.

**Person 1**

OK. Ilkley Fellowship it is. . . Agreed?  
*(Others agree)*

**Person 5**

Actually, no. I'm from Burley and I'm not sure I would want us to have such a narrow field of mission as just Ilkley.

**Person 4**

Well, there are plenty of churches in Burley, for all the good it does you lot over there, but we're the only one in Ilkley.

**Person 5**

Well, if that's your attitude to Burley I think I'll go and join one of the churches there. *(Exits)*

**Person 4**

Good riddance!

**Person 1**

Well, that was a bit unnecessary. . . But is everyone else happy with Ilkley Fellowship?  
*(Others agree)*

**Person 6**

What about Ilkley Evangelical Fellowship?

**Person 3**

That's a bit narrow. What about Ilkley Christian Fellowship?

**Person 6**

What does Christian tell you about a fellowship? It means nothing these days.

**Person 3**

I will not sit here and have the name of Christian abused. Goodbye. *(Exits)*

**Person 1**

Oh dear! So are we now looking at Ilkley Evangelical Fellowship?

**Person 7**

How about Ilkley Progressive Evangelical Fellowship? Don't want anyone confusing us with a bunch of conservative fundamentalists.

**Person 6**

And what is wrong with conservative fundamentalists?

**Person 7**

Do I need to start?

**Person 6**

I don't need to sit here and take this. . . I'm off! *(Exits)*

**Person 1**

This is getting beyond a joke. . . Are we happy with Ilkley Progressive Evangelical Fellowship?

**Person 8**

Actually I would prefer Ilkley Community Progressive Evangelical Fellowship. It has a much more welcoming feel to it.

**Person 4**

No. . . Ilkley Progressive Evangelical Community Fellowship sounds much better.

**Person 8**

Well, if you are going to get silly about it all I'm leaving. *(Exits)*

**Person 1**

But. . . Oh never mind. So we are to be known as Ilkley Progressive Evangelical Community Fellowship.

**Person 7**

Well, I think that we should nail our beliefs about adult baptism firmly to the mast as the Ilkley Progressive Evangelical Baptist Community Fellowship.

**Person 4**

They may be your beliefs but they're not mine. I couldn't associate with a church that insisted on adult baptism. Sorry, but I'll just have to leave you to it. *(Exits)*

**Person 1**

Wait. . . Oh well. . . I suppose Ilkley Progressive Evangelical Baptist Community Fellowship it is then.

**Person 7**

Agreed.

**Person 1**

So do you want me to go and buy enough copies of Worship Today for everyone?

**Person 7**

Worship Today? That modern ecumenical rubbish? Never! *(Exits)*

**Person 1**

Oh. . . I suppose we should close the meeting with the grace then. . .