



THE METROPOLITAN CHURCH
in
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

CHURCH CONSTITUTION

Adopted on 23rd April 2006

Article 1 – Name and Administration

- A. The name of this Charity shall be the Metropolitan Community Church in Newcastle upon Tyne, also known as “MCC Newcastle” (hereinafter called “the Church”).
- B. Subject to the matters set out below, the Church and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with UFMCC Bylaws and this Constitution by the Members of the Board of Directors (hereinafter called “the Board”).

Article 2 – Affiliation and Disaffiliation

This Church is a member congregation of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC); ascribes to the government, doctrine, vision, and mission values of UFMCC; and agrees to abide by the UFMCC Bylaws and decisions made by General Conference so long as those Bylaws and decisions are lawful and approved by the Charity Commission.

A. Successor Corporation (Dissolution)

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is the not-for-profit organisation designated to receive the church’s property in the event of dissolution or abandonment of the church or disaffiliation from the UFMCC, in accordance with UFMCC Bylaws.

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B. *Disaffiliation and Dissolution*

1. A decision to disaffiliate and dissolve from the UFMCC shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members present at a Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of disaffiliating and dissolving, and shall be decided in accordance with UFMCC Bylaws.
2. If disaffiliation or dissolution occurs, a copy of the statement of accounts, or account and statement, for the final accounting period of the Church must be sent to the Charity Commission.

Article 3 – Purpose (Objects) & Powers

A. *Purpose*

The purpose of this Church is to advance the Christian religion by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Newcastle upon Tyne and elsewhere by providing Christian fellowship, worship, witness, action and service.

B. *Powers.*

In furtherance of the purposes, but not otherwise, the Executive Committee (hereinafter called “The Board”) may exercise the following powers:

- (i) Power to raise funds to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising such funds, the Board shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law;
- (ii) Power to buy, take on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the purpose and to maintain and equip it for use;
- (iii) Power subject to any consents required by law to sell, lease or dispose of all or any part of the property of the Church;
- (iv) Power subject to any consents required by law to borrow money and to charge all or any part of the property of the Church with repayment of the money so borrowed;
- (v) Power to employ such staff (who shall not be members of the Board with the exception of the Pastor) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the purpose, and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of those staff;
- (vi) Power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the purposes or of similar charitable purposes, and to exchange information and advice with them;
- (vii) Power to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the purposes;
- (viii) Power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Board may think fit;

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- (ix) Power to do all such other lawful things as is necessary for the achievement of the purposes;

In furtherance of the said purposes, but not otherwise, the Church shall be a constituent church body as referred to in Article 2 of this Constitution and may do as referred to in the remainder of this Constitution.

Article 4 – Members and friends

A. *Criteria for member in good standing.*

A member who the Board considers attends worship regularly within a period of 12 months, who provides identifiable financial contribution or makes a definite service contribution, and who demonstrates interest and loyalty.

B. *Criteria for membership.*

Any baptised Christian:

- (i) who the Board considers attends regularly over a period of not less than 3 months, who is interested in furthering the purposes of the Church, and who has completed a membership class, may become a member, by participating in the Rite of Membership (which must include a declaration of faith); or:
- (ii) who has a letter of transfer from another Metropolitan Community Church and receives the endorsement of the Board, may be affirmed by the church as a member.

C. *Membership List.*

The list of members in good standing shall be maintained by the Secretary, who shall report changes to the Board.

D. *Membership Review*

The Board shall review the membership list in the month of February.

1. A Member who does not have registered attendance, identified financial support or definite service contribution, nor demonstrated interest and loyalty within the preceding period of 12 months may be removed from the list of Members in good standing and placed on a list of inactive Members.
2. The Board shall notify this Member in writing that the Member has been placed on a list of inactive Members and is not eligible to vote at any business meeting of the church.
3. If the inactive Member has not attended, provided identifiable financial support, or demonstrated further interest or loyalty within a period of three (3) months immediately following notification, the Board shall have the authority, at its discretion, to remove any such Member from the local church membership roll.
4. The inactive Member may be restored to the list of Members in good standing by a majority vote of the Board without a public reception into membership.

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5. The inactive Member who is not restored during the period of three months immediately following notification shall be considered a former Member.
6. A former Member may be restored to the list of Members in good standing after meeting the criteria for membership and participating in the Rite of Membership.

E. *Right to Appeal*

A decision by the Board to remove an inactive Member from the church membership roll may be appealed by the inactive Member to the next regular Congregational Meeting or a Special Congregational Meeting called for that purpose. The decision of the Congregational Meeting is final. Pending the outcome of the appeal, the inactive Member is not eligible to vote at any business meeting of the church.

1. *Appeal process.*

- (i) The request for an appeal shall be submitted to the Secretary within thirty (30) days following the date when the inactive Member was dropped from the local church membership roll.
- (ii) The Board may consider the appeal and reverse its earlier decision without taking the matter to the Congregational Meeting.
- (iii) Should the Board sustain its earlier decision and the inactive Member wishes the appeal to continue, the request shall be included as an agenda item for the next regular Congregational Meeting or a Special Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of considering the appeal and shall be decided by a majority vote.

F. *Friends of the Church.*

A person who feels unable to become a Member but who supports the goals of the church and wants to be part of the work of the church may be designated as a "Friend of the Church."

1. Lists of Friends of the Church. The list of Friends of the Church shall be maintained by the Secretary.
2. Limitations on Friends of the Church. Friends may serve on appointed committees and may participate in all activities of the Church. Friends may not vote at Congregational Meetings nor serve on the Board. Friends shall not be considered in determining the number of Lay Delegates.

G. *Discipline of Members and Friends.*

1. The Church cannot condone disloyalty or unbecoming conduct on the part of any Member or Friend. The Board is empowered to remove by a majority vote any Member or Friend, or take other appropriate disciplinary action. However, the Member or Friend has a right to be heard by the Board accompanied by a friend (who shall be a Member), before a final decision is made.

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2. In exceptional circumstances the Pastor or Board may immediately suspend a Member/Friend for a period of no greater than 2 weeks pending the Board meeting at which the disciplinary action is to be considered.
3. Any Notice required to be served by the Secretary or the Board on any member either be served personally or by sending it by post in a pre-paid letter addressed to such address at their last known address within United Kingdom given to the Church, and any such letter so sent shall be deemed received within 10 days of posting.

H. Right to Appeal.

The action of the Board may be appealed. Pending the outcome of the appeal of discipline, the disciplined Member or Friend shall remain under discipline and shall retain the right to vote at regular and Special Congregational Meetings (for Members), including the Congregational Meeting held to consider the appeal.

I. Appeal Process.

1. The action of the Board may be appealed to the next regular Congregational Meeting or at a Special Congregational Meeting called for that purpose. The decision of the Congregational or Special Congregational Meeting shall be final.
2. The Board shall consider the appeal and may reverse its earlier decision without taking the matter to the Congregational Meeting.
3. Should the Board sustain its earlier decision and the person under discipline wishes the appeal to continue, the request shall be included as an agenda item for the next regular Congregational Meeting or a Special Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of considering the appeal and shall be decided by a majority vote.

ARTICLE 5 – Congregational Meetings

Government of the Church is vested in its Congregational Meeting, which exerts the right to take control of its affairs, subject to the provisions of the UFMCC Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and documents of legal organization, the General Conference and the approval of the Charity Commission.

A. Time, Place and Agenda

1. The Annual Congregational Meeting shall be held each year in the month of April. The time, place and the agenda of the Annual Congregational Meeting shall be determined by the Board.
2. The Agenda shall include, but not be limited to, election of Members of the Board, election of Lay Delegates in the appropriate year, presentation of financial report, approval of budget and receiving reports from the Board and/or Pastor.
3. Additions to the agenda may requested by a Member to the Board by submitting them to the Secretary no later than one (1) week prior to the Meeting.

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B. Notification

The Board shall notify Members in writing at least two (2) weeks in advance in respect of either Annual or Special Congregational Meetings giving the date and place of the Meeting. A Special Congregational Meeting may be requested by the majority vote of the Board /Pastor or by a petition of the Members, so long as it is signed by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the members in good standing, stating the reasons for and the business to be discussed and submitted to the Secretary.

C. Voting Rights

Each Member in good standing has the right to vote. Proxy or any other form of absentee voting shall not be allowed.

D. Elections

Nominations for election to the Board must be made by members in good standing of the Church in writing and must be in the hands of the Secretary of the Board at least 14 days before the Annual Congregational Meeting. Should the nominations exceed vacancies, elections will be held in a secret ballot and every member in good standing shall have one vote. The option to vote to re-open nominations will be available. If nominations do not exceed vacancies, each candidate will be put to ballot separately with the options to vote for the candidate or to re-open nominations.

E. Minutes

The Secretary or other person specially appointed by the Board shall keep a full record of proceedings at every Congregational Meeting of the Church.

F. Quorum

There shall be a quorum when at least one third of the number of members in good standing of the Church for the time being are present at any regular or Special Congregational Meeting.

G. Votes Required for Approval

Decisions, including elections, require approval by a vote of more than fifty percent (50%) of those Members present and voting, unless otherwise required by UFMCC Bylaws or otherwise stated in this Constitution.

H. Conflict

At any Congregational Meeting or Board where the stipend and/or the expenses of the Pastor or any other employee are discussed and voted upon, the said person shall take no part in the discussion and shall not vote but shall withdraw from the meeting during such discussion and voting.

ARTICLE 6 – Local Church Administrative Body

A. Name

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The local Church administrative body shall be the Board of Directors (throughout this constitution called “the Board”), which is authorized to provide administrative leadership for MCC Newcastle.

B. Responsibilities

The Board shall be responsible for providing the Church with a set of Bylaws (called “The Constitution”), which are subject to approval by the Congregational Meeting, the Elder serving the Region and the Charity Commission. The Board shall also have charge of all matters pertaining to the documents of the legal organization and incorporation, Church property, risk-management, and for collecting and distributing funds, keeping adequate Church records, and making timely reports to the Congregation, Charity Commission and UFMCC.

C. Membership

1. Members of the Board must be over 18 years of age and be members in good standing of MCC Newcastle and will be elected according to this Constitution.
2. With the exception of the Pastor, someone who is a church employee or someone who is a Clergy Candidate shall not be eligible to serve on the Board.

D. Composition

1. There shall be seven (7) members of the Board, including the Pastor and Lay Delegate.
2. No person shall be entitled to act as a member of the Board whether on first or subsequent entry to office until signing in the minute book of the Board a declaration of acceptance and of willingness to act as a Trustee for the Charity.
3. A member of the Board shall cease to hold office if he/she is disqualified from acting as a member of the Board by virtue of:
 - (i) section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory modification thereof);
 - (ii) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his/her own affairs;
 - (iii) is absent without the permission of the Board from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the Board resolve that his/her office be vacated, or
 - (iv) notifies the Board a wish to resign (but only if at least three members of the Board will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect).

E. Term of Office

Except for the Pastor, the term of office shall be three (3) years, with one third being elected at each Annual Congregational Meeting. A Board member may have the option to be re-elected for one further consecutive term, but may not stand again for at least one year following the end of the second term of office.

F. Meetings

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1. The Board shall meet no fewer than six (6) times a year. Except for executive sessions, meetings shall be open to the congregation and public to attend as observers without vote or voice.
2. *Minutes*
 - (i) The Board must keep minutes, in a book for this purpose, of the proceedings of the Board or any sub-committees.
 - (ii) Minutes of open meetings and financial reports shall be available to members of the Church within two (2) weeks after ratification.
 - (iii) Minutes shall include a record of those present and the decisions made. A copy of the minutes shall become part of the permanent church/charities records.

3. *Quorum*

No less than a majority of the members of the Board, must be present in order to transact business and the chairperson shall be appointed before any business is transacted.

G. Sub-committees

The Board may appoint one or more sub-committees consisting of members of the Church for the purpose of making any inquiry or supervising or performing any function or duty which is in the opinion of the Board would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee, provided that all acts and proceedings of any sub-committee shall be fully and promptly reported to the Board.

H. Officers

The Board shall appoint from within their number a Treasurer, Secretary, Moderator and Vice Moderator. The duties of these Offices are as follows:

- (i) *Moderator.* The Pastor shall serve as Moderator of the Board.
- (ii) *Vice Moderator.* Shall serve as Moderator of the Board in the absence or request of the Pastor.
- (iii) *Secretary.* The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring the maintenance of official correspondence and church records, and for ensuring that accurate records are kept of all meetings of the Board and Congregation. The Secretary is the officer authorized to receive petitions submitted to the Board.
- (iv) *Treasurer.* The Treasurer shall be responsible for ensuring the preparation and maintenance of all financial records. This shall include a monthly financial report to the Board, and the annual financial report and estimates to the Congregation. The monthly and annual financial reports shall reflect receipts, disbursements and outstanding financial obligations.

I. Vacancies

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In the event of a vacancy on the Board, the Board may appoint a qualified member to fill the vacancy until the next Congregational Meeting, when an election shall be held to fill the unexpired term.

J. Discipline

The Church cannot condone disloyalty, unbecoming conduct or dereliction of duty on the part of any member of the Board. Therefore, the Board may remove by a majority vote of the full Board any of its members guilty of the above, with the exception of the Pastor who must be disciplined in accordance with the UFMCC Bylaws. A petition submitted to the Secretary and signed by twenty five percent (25%) of the members of good standing of the congregation may also initiate such procedure.

K. Right to Appeal

A disciplined member of the Board may appeal the action to the congregation at its next regular Congregational Meeting or at a Special Congregational Meeting which may be called for this purpose. The decision of the Congregational Meeting is final. Until the Congregational Meeting to consider the appeal, the position held by the disciplined member of the Board shall be considered vacant.

L. Limitation of Liability

1. Personal interests

No member of the Board shall acquire any interest in property belonging to the Church (otherwise than as a Trustee for the Charity) or receive remuneration or be interested (otherwise than as a member of the Board) in any contract entered into by the Board).

2. No member of the Board shall be liable for any act or failure to act by another member of the Board or by any employee of the Church. No member of the Board shall be liable for any loss arising from any fault in the title to any property acquired by the Church.

3. No member of the Board shall be liable for any loss arising from any fault in any security in which the Church might invest, or from bankruptcy, insolvency, or wrongful act by any person to whom the Church might entrust any of its property. No member of the Board shall be liable for any loss due to error of judgement or oversight on his/her office, unless this loss arises from the member's own wilful neglect or fraudulent or criminal actions.

M. Indemnity

The Charity shall protect every member of the Board against all costs arising in relation to his/her relations with the Church, unless they are occasioned by his/her own wilful neglect or fraudulent or criminal actions.

ARTICLE 7 – Pastor

A. Role

The Pastor is the UFMCC clergy person with a licence to practise who has been called by God and elected by the Church to be responsible for the duties of teacher, preacher, and spiritual leader until such time that the relationship is terminated. The Pastor shall also fulfil

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such other roles and responsibilities as are stated in the UFMCC Bylaws and the policies of the Church.

1. *Interim Pastoral Leader*

In the event that a UFMCC clergy person is not available to serve as Pastor, the Board may request the Regional Elder to appoint an Interim Pastoral Leader. The term of office of the Interim Pastoral Leader shall be one (1) year. If the Interim Pastoral Leader is a member of MCC Newcastle, then the Interim Pastoral Leader shall have the authority to fulfil all of the roles and responsibilities of Pastor, except that the Interim Pastoral Leader shall serve as Moderator of the Board and Congregational Meetings, with voice but no vote.

B. *Responsibilities*

The Pastor shall have the authority for ordering all worship services of the Church; determining when other worship services will be held, subject to approval of the Board; appointing compensation, vacation periods and titles of office of the Church staff, subject to approval of the Board. The Pastor shall serve as a voting member of the Board, Moderator of the Board and Congregational Meetings, personnel director and as the primary spokesperson for the church to the community. The Pastor may delegate such duties as seem wise.

C. *Pastoral Covenant*

In the event that the appointment of a Pastor occurs, the Board and Pastor shall develop a covenant between the Pastor and the Church. The covenant shall include a job description and address such matters as compensation that is consistent with the equitable local standards, benefits, allowances and leave. All provisions of the covenant shall be subordinate to the Bylaws of the UFMCC and the relevant statutory provisions for the time being in force.

D. *Pastoral Vacancy*

1. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Pastor, a Pastoral Search Committee shall be responsible for presenting a qualified candidate for election at a Congregational Meeting. The Pastoral Search Committee shall develop and implement the pastoral search process in consultation with the Regional Elder.

2. *Composition of the Pastoral Search Committee.*

The Pastoral Search Committee shall consist of five (5) members, including two (2) members of the Board whom the Board shall appoint, and three (3) additional members elected at a Congregational Meeting.

3. *Election of Pastor*

To be elected, the candidate presented by the Pastoral Search Committee must receive seventy percent (70%) of the votes cast during a Congregational Meeting.

E. *Termination of Relationship*

The Pastor and Congregation may choose at any time to terminate their relationship through mutual agreement. Unilateral failure to renew the Pastor's contract shall not constitute removal of the Pastor from office. No petition for removal of the Pastor based on

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irreconcilable differences is valid unless preceded by the process of conflict resolution, as referred to in Article 8.

ARTICLE 8 – Conflict Resolution

When there is conflict or difficulty within the Church that cannot be resolved, including conflicts between the Pastor and Congregation, the Board, the Pastor, any Lay Delegate, or a petition signed by a minimum of thirty three percent (33%) of the Members of the Church may invite intervention by the Regional Elder to resolve the conflict, in accordance with UFMCC Bylaws.

A. *Removing the Pastor from Office*

The Church shall follow the process as outlined in the UFMCC Bylaws for removing a Pastor from office for disloyalty; unbecoming conduct, dereliction of duty, or when irreconcilable differences arise that cannot be resolved through mutual agreement.

1. Any petition to initiate the process of removing the Pastor from office must be submitted to the Secretary of the Board and be signed by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the members of good standing.
2. The Board may initiate the process of removing the Pastor from office by a vote of three fourths (3/4) of the full Board.
3. The Secretary shall send a copy of the completed petition or motion of the Board to the Regional Elder within three (3) days.
4. The Pastor shall remain fully compensated until the final action of the Congregation.

ARTICLE 9 – Lay Delegate

The church shall elect one (1) lay person for every one hundred (100) Members in good standing, or part thereof, to serve as Lay Delegate. The Lay Delegate shall be a Member in good standing of the local Church.

A. *Election*

The Lay Delegate shall be elected at the next regular Congregational Meeting following each General Conference. The election shall be conducted in accordance with Article 5(D). Should the office fall vacant, the Board may appoint a member in good standing to the office until the next Congregational Meeting, at which an election will take place for the remainder of the term.

B. *Term of Office*

The term of office of Lay Delegate shall be two (2) years.

C. *Duties*

The duties of the Lay Delegate shall be to represent the Congregation at General and Regional Conferences, to communicate with the Congregation regarding UFMCC concerns

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and policies and to liaise with other Churches in the Fellowship. The Lay Delegate shall be, ex officio, a voting member of the Board.

1. *Notification to Alternate Lay Delegate*

When the Lay Delegate is unable or unwilling to perform the duties of Lay Delegate, the Lay Delegate shall immediately inform the Alternate Lay Delegate and the Secretary of the Board. If the Alternate Lay Delegate is unable to serve, the Board shall appoint a member in good standing to serve in the absence of the Lay and Alternate Delegates.

D. *Alternate Lay Delegate*

The Church shall appoint one (1) Alternate Lay Delegate. The election, term of office, election process and funding shall be the same as for Lay Delegate. The Alternate Lay Delegate will not be a member of the Board ex officio, but may be an otherwise elected member of the Board.

1. *Duties*

The duties of the Alternate Lay Delegate shall be to stay informed of UFMCC concerns and policies and be prepared to assume the duties of any Lay Delegate who is unable or unwilling to perform the duties of Lay Delegate, including but not limited to representing the congregation at General and Regional Conferences.

E. *Funding*

To the best of its ability, the congregation shall fund the Lay Delegate's transportation, registration and necessary daily expenses at General and Regional Conferences.

F. *Discipline*

The Charity cannot condone disloyal, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty. The Lay Delegate or Alternate Lay Delegate may be disciplined according to the procedures pertaining to Board members, set out under Article 6, parts J and K.

ARTICLE 10 – Church Accounts, Finances, Budget and Property

A. *Duties of Board*

The Board shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification thereof) and shall be responsible for the presentation of an annual operating budget reflecting anticipated receipts and disbursements to the Congregational Meeting with regard to accounts:

- (i) the keeping or accounting records for the Church;
- (ii) the preparation of annual statements of account for the Church;
- (iii) the auditing or independent examination of the statements of account of the Church;

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- (iv) the transmission of the statements of account and Annual return of the Church to the Charity Commission as required;
- (v) the Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the Church;
- (vi) the accounts shall be examined at least once a year by the external examiner appointed by the Church in the Congregational Meeting, and
- (vii) an examined statement of accounts for the last financial year shall be submitted by the Board at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

All monies raised on behalf of the Church shall be applied to further the objects of the Charity and no other purpose, PROVIDED THAT nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any employee of the Church or to members of the Board or any advisory committee of reasonable out of pocket expenses.

B. Church Finances

1. *Authorized signatures*

Any Church bank or other financial account shall require two (2) signatures for withdrawals. Four (4) nominated members of the Board shall have signature authority. No more than one person from a household, family or committed relationship shall have signature authority.

2. *Limit on Expenditure*

(ii) The Pastor shall have the authority to spend or obligate church funds within the approved budget in any amount not to exceed five percent (5%) of the annual budget; any expenditure greater than that amount requires the majority approval of the full Board.

(iii) The Board shall have the authority to spend or obligate the Church funds within the approved budget; any expenditure or commitment greater than ten percent (10%) of the approved annual budget and not individually specified in that budget, requires a majority vote by the Congregational Members.

3. *Fiscal Year*

For the purposes of reporting to UFMCC and the Charity Commission, the fiscal year of the Charity shall be the calendar year.

C. Church Budget

1. The Board shall be responsible for the presentation of an annual operating budget reflecting anticipated receipts and disbursements to the Congregational Meeting for a majority approval. The approved budget may be amended, as needed, by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Board, which shall immediately notify the members of the Church that such amendment has been made, provided that any increase or decrease in the total budget amount does not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of that amount. Any greater change in the total budget amount shall require a majority vote of a Congregational Meeting.

2. *Budget year.*

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The annual budget of the Church shall cover the period from April through to March.

3. *Tithes.*

The Board shall report all Church receipts each month to the UFMCC, and with that report shall remit a percentage of the funds reported. The percentage of the funds shall be determined by General Conference.

D. *Church Property*

1. Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) of this section, the Board shall cause the title to:

- (i) all land held by or in trust for the Church which is not invested in the Official Custodian for Charities, and
- (ii) all investments held by or on behalf of the Church

to be invested either in a corporation entitled to act as custodian trustee or in not less than three individuals appointed by them as holding trustees. Holding trustees may be removed by the Board at their pleasure and shall act in accordance with the lawful directions of the Board. Provided they act only in accordance with the lawful directions of the Board, the holding trustees shall not be liable for the acts and defaults of its members.

2. If a corporation entitled to act as custodian trustee has not been appointed to hold the property of the Church, the Board may permit any investments held by or in trust for the Church to be held in the name of the clearing bank, trust corporation or any stock broking company which is a member of the International Stock Exchange (or any subsidiary of any stock-broking company) as nominee for the Board, and may pay such nominee reasonable and proper remuneration for acting as such.

ARTICLE 11 – Adoption and amendments

A. *Adoption*

This Constitution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Congregational Meeting, and approval by the Regional Elder and the Charity Commission.

1. Until the adoption and approval of this Constitution, it shall take effect as if references in it to the Board were references to the persons whose signatures appear at the bottom of this document.

B. *Amendments*

1. This Constitution may be amended or repealed at any duly convened Congregational Meeting. Proposed amendments or repeals shall be submitted in writing to the Board no later than thirty (30) days prior to the Congregational Meeting the proposal is to be considered. Adoption of the amendments or repeal shall require approval by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote and is subject to approval by the Regional Elder and the Charity Commission. Amendments necessitated by amendments to the UFMCC Bylaws shall

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not require approval by the Congregation but are subject to the approval of the Charity Commission.

2. No amendments may be made to Article 1, Section A. (the name of the Charity); Article 3, Section A. (the Purposes/Objects); Article 6, Section K., sub-section 1 (Board Members not to be personally interested); Article 2, Section A. (2) (dissolution); or this sub-section without the written consent of the Charity Commission and approval of the Regional Elder.

3. *Interpretation of this Constitution*

The Interpretation Act 1978 of England and Wales shall apply as it applies to the Acts of the Parliaments of the United Kingdom.

Signed on behalf of

The Metropolitan Church in Newcastle upon Tyne

by

Claire Mather-Denham

Mary Hill

Ian Martin

John Lawson