

AMENDED REGULATIONS ON CONGREGATIONS AND CHURCH COUNCILS

TO TAKE EFFECT ON 4 APRIL 1999

Replace the present Regulations 3.1.1 – 3.1.17 with the following:

“3. GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

CONGREGATIONS

THE CONGREGATION

3.1.1 (a) A Congregation, as the embodiment in one place of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, shall be those members and adherents who worship, witness and serve as a fellowship of the Spirit in Christ, and who meet regularly to hear God’s Word, to celebrate the sacraments, to build one another up in love, to share the wider responsibilities of the Church, and to serve the world, and who are recognised as a Congregation by the Presbytery.

(b) In fulfilling its purpose a Congregation shall:

(i) bear witness to that unity that is both Christ’s gift and his will; (ii) build up the members and adherents in faith and love;(iii) sustain the members and adherents in hope;(iv) nurture the members and adherents in their growth in grace;(v) equip the members and adherents for engagement in worship, witness and service in the world as they participate in the mission of Christ;(vi) discipline its members in love;(vii) maintain pastoral oversight;(viii) encourage each member and adherent to participate in the life of the Congregation and endeavour to provide opportunity for that participation; and(ix) provide means whereby the members and adherents may be sustained in fellowship, in prayer and in confession, in baptism and in the Lord’s Supper, in mutual reception of and mutual exertion in the Gospel proclamation and service. **FORMING AND**

RECOGNISING CONGREGATIONS

3.1.2 (a) A Congregation shall be recognised by resolution of a Presbytery.

(b) A Presbytery may recognise a Congregation when:

- (i) a group of people apply to be so recognised, and demonstrate that their life and mission is consistent with the definition of a Congregation, and
- (ii) the group of people applying have amongst them persons who hold membership of the Church in another Congregation or recorded with the Presbytery, and who seek to transfer their membership upon recognition being given, and/or those who are seeking to be recognised as members;
- (iii) the Pastoral Relations Committee or another body authorised by the Presbytery recommends that the group applying be so recognised; and
- (iv) the group of people applying shall include sufficient voting members to constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Congregation [refer Regulation 3.1.9 (h)].

(c) The Presbytery shall assist the nurture and care of a new Congregation by designating an appropriate person to liaise with the Congregation on behalf of the Presbytery until the Presbytery determines such a liaison role is no longer warranted.

(d) The Presbytery shall make provision for the sacraments to be celebrated in the life of a new Congregation.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CONGREGATIONS

3.1.3 (a) A Congregation may relate to one or more other Congregations for the better exercise of their mission, at the initiative of a Congregation or of the Presbytery. Ongoing structured relationships between Congregations require Presbytery approval.

(b) Related Congregations may hold a joint meeting of the Congregations, on the initiative of any of the related Congregations or of the Presbytery.

AMALGAMATION OR DIVISION OF CONGREGATIONS

3.1.4 (a) Where a Presbytery considers that it is in the best interests of the mission, witness and service of the Church, it may:

(i) amalgamate two or more Congregations;

(ii) divide a Congregation into two or more portions, and each portion may then be recognised as a Congregation or become amalgamated with another Congregation or Congregations.

(b) Any action under (a) may be at the initiative of the Congregation(s) or of the Presbytery.

(c) In the application of this Regulation:

(i) the Presbytery shall take proper account of the purpose, functions, responsibilities and rights of the Congregation as the primary expression of the corporate life of the Church;

(ii) the Presbytery shall ensure that any Congregation and any other Presbytery affected shall consult adequately, and shall provide any such Congregation and other Presbytery with the reasons for any proposals and for any decisions which it makes;

(iii) each Presbytery and Congregation affected has a responsibility to listen faithfully to one another.

3.1.5 The Presbytery shall ensure:

(a) that, in the amalgamation of Congregations pursuant to Regulation 3.1.4(a), all rolls and other records of the Congregations affected accompany those Congregations;

(b) that, in dividing a Congregation pursuant to Regulation 3.1.4(a), all rolls and other records of the Congregation being divided are placed in the custody of the appropriate officer(s) of the Church;

(c) that in each case proper arrangements are made to deal with any property affected;

(d) that the matter is reported to the next meeting of the Synod.

DISBANDING OF A CONGREGATION

3.1.6 (a) A Congregation shall be disbanded and cease to be recognised when, in the

opinion of the Presbytery, the conditions for the recognition of a Congregation are no longer satisfactorily met.

(b) A Presbytery may disband and cease to recognise a Congregation for reasons which it considers are in the best interests of the mission, witness and service of the Church within the bounds of the Presbytery.

(c) In the application of this Regulation:

- (i) the Presbytery shall take proper account of the purpose, functions, responsibilities and rights of the Congregation as the primary expression of the corporate life of the Church;
- (ii) the Presbytery shall consult adequately with the Congregation and with any other Congregation to which the Congregation is related by the Presbytery and shall provide the Congregation(s) with the reasons for any proposals and for any decision which it makes;
- (iii) the Presbytery and the Congregation(s) have a responsibility to listen faithfully to one another;
- (iv) the conditions for the recognition of a Congregation referred to in paragraph (a) are that it is capable of and will fulfil the purpose, functions and responsibilities specified in Regulations 3.1.1 and 3.1.8 as far as the circumstances justify.

3.1.7 When a Congregation is no longer recognised the Presbytery shall ensure:

- (a) that each member and adherent of the Congregation is transferred to a roll of another Congregation;
- (b) that all rolls and other records of the Congregation are placed in the custody of an appropriate officer of the Church;
- (c) that in each case proper arrangements are made to deal with any property affected;
- (d) that the matter is reported to the next meeting of the Synod.

RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1.8 The responsibilities of a Congregation include:

- (a) the matters listed in Regulation 3.1.1;
- (b) participating in shared responsibilities with any related Congregations;
- (c) fulfilling the ministry of the Church in and to the community;
- (d) appointing Elders and other members of the Church Council, and members of other bodies, as required;
- (e) appointing the Congregation's representative(s) to the Presbytery;
- (f) making arrangements to call a Minister in accordance with the Regulations;
- (g) providing facilities and resources in support of the work of the Congregation, including stipends and allowances and other provisions for the support of the ministry, provided that stipends shall be the first charge on the funds of the Congregation;

- (h) meeting as required to transact business that belongs to the Congregation;
- (i) advising the Church Council on property matters affecting the Congregation;
- (j) maintaining all necessary and appropriate relationships with the Presbytery and other councils and bodies.

A Congregation may do such other things as are consistent with the purposes of the Church and not the specific responsibility of any other council or body within the Church. A Congregation shall recognise the limits of its own authority and give heed to other councils of the Church.

MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

3.1.9 (a) Membership of meeting of the Congregation

The following persons shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Congregation, (referred to in this Regulation as voting members):

- (i) all Ministers and Lay Pastors who hold membership in the Congregation;
- (ii) all other confirmed members of the Congregation;
- (iii) all members-in-association with the Congregation;
- (iv) all Ministers and Lay Pastors serving in approved placements in the Congregation.

Adherents and members not yet confirmed may attend but not vote at the meetings.

(b) Chairperson and Secretary

The meeting of a Congregation shall appoint a chairperson and a secretary. They shall hold office for periods determined by the Congregation. If the elected chairperson or secretary is not present at a meeting, the Congregation may appoint another of its members to act as chairperson or secretary.

The secretary shall be responsible for taking and recording the minutes of meetings of the Congregation.

(c) General meetings

- (i) General meetings of the Congregation shall be held at least twice in each year and shall be convened by the chairperson and secretary, or if there is a vacancy in one of those positions by the remaining officer;
- (ii) At least once each year at a meeting or meetings of the Congregation:
 - financial reports shall be presented;
 - policies, plans, budgets, appointments and other matters within the responsibility of the Congregation shall be determined.

(d) Special Meetings

The chairperson and secretary of the Congregation may convene a special meeting, due notice being given, and shall do so if requested in writing by at least seven voting members of the Congregation. A special meeting shall deal only with matters specified in the notice of meeting.

(e) If, in the opinion of the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Presbytery, circumstances warrant, the chairperson of the Presbytery or the chairperson's nominee may convene a general or special meeting of the Congregation.

(f) Notice of Meetings

Due notice of all meetings shall be given either by public announcement at a time of public

worship at least one week prior to the date of the meeting, or by such other means as the Congregation may determine.

(g) **Conduct of Meetings**

Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with "A Manual for Meetings in the Uniting Church" or with such rules or standing orders as the Congregation shall determine subject to any provisions duly prescribed.

(h) **Quorum**

(i) Eight voting members or one-tenth of the voting members of the Congregation whichever number is the greater shall constitute a quorum, unless otherwise determined by the Presbytery in respect of a particular Congregation.

(ii) If no quorum be present the meeting shall be reconvened by the chairperson and if the chairperson be unavailable by the secretary. If a quorum be not present at the reconvened meeting the business of the meeting may be conducted by those present.

ELDERS

3.1.10 (a) The ministry of Elder is one of spiritual oversight, and may also be exercised in pastoral visitation, teaching, encouraging members of the Congregation to share in mission, and assisting the Minister in leadership of worship and administration of the sacraments and other areas in the life of the Congregation. Elders who serve on the Church Council have a particular responsibility to ensure that matters of spiritual oversight, pastoral care and the mission of the Church have priority in the work of the Church Council.

(b) Members who held life tenure as Elders at the inauguration of the Uniting Church and who have maintained continuous membership in a Council of Elders or Church Council since then shall continue to be recognised as Elders and shall be entitled to be members of the Church Council unless the Presbytery authorises otherwise.

(c) A Congregation may choose to use the term "Leader" instead of "Elder" for those fulfilling the ministry of Elder.

COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES OF THE CONGREGATION

3.1.11 (a) The Congregation shall form a Church Council and make such other provisions as are appropriate for the fulfilment of its responsibilities.

(b) In determining the composition of the Church Council or any committee or other body, the Congregation shall have regard to the principle that in accordance with the call and gifts of the Spirit each member shall have a part in the ministry of the Church, and that government of the Church will be "entrusted to representatives, men and women, bearing gifts and graces with which God has endowed them for the building up of the Church". In furtherance of this principle, the Church Council and committees and other bodies shall as far as practicable include a significant proportion of members of the younger age groups to enable them to exercise their gifts.

CHURCH COUNCIL

3.1.12 (a) The Church Council shall consist of:

(i) the Ministers, Youth Workers and Lay Pastors who are serving in approved

placements in the Congregation;

- (ii) Community Ministers and candidates for Community Minister who are serving in community ministry in the Congregation;
- (iii) Ministers, being members of the Congregation, who are Ministers-in-Association in accordance with Regulation 2.5.1(g);
- (iv) subject to paragraph (b), Elders; and
- (v) other confirmed members or members-in-association elected by the Congregation.

Subject to paragraph (b), the Church Council may co-opt not more than two other members or members-in-association of the Congregation to membership of the Church Council for such term not exceeding two years as the Church Council shall determine.

(b) Unless the Presbytery authorises otherwise, Elders shall be members of the Church Council and shall comprise at least one half of the membership of the Church Council.

(c) The Church Council shall meet at least quarterly on dates to be determined by the Council to deal with all matters relating to the responsibilities of the Church Council having particular regard to any matters referred to the Council by the Congregation. Additional meetings shall be held when convened by the chairperson or at the direction of a Congregational meeting, Presbytery, Synod or Assembly.

(d) The chairperson shall convene a special meeting of the Church Council within fourteen days of being so requested by five or more members of the Council or by no fewer than half in number of the membership of the Church Council, whichever is the less. The business of such special meeting shall be restricted to the matters listed in the notice convening the meeting.

(e) The Presbytery may authorise the appointment of one Church Council where Congregations are related to each other.

(f) Church Councils of related Congregations may act conjointly in respect of all or some of the duties and responsibilities described in Regulation 3.1.13.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

3.1.13 (a) The Church Council shall give priority in its life to building up the Congregation in faith and love, sustaining members in hope, and leading the Congregation to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world. This priority shall be reflected in the agenda of its ordinary meetings.

- (b) The duties and responsibilities of the Church Council include the following:
- (i) sharing with the Minister(s) in mission and in the pastoral care and spiritual oversight of the Congregation;
 - (ii) nurturing the members and adherents in their growth in grace;
 - (iii) making decisions in accordance with the Regulations concerning baptism, confirmation and membership, and the keeping and reviewing of the rolls of the Congregation;
 - (iv) assisting the Minister(s) in the conduct of worship and in the administration of the sacraments;
 - (v) determining the time and place of services of public worship;
 - (vi) carrying out its functions concerning applicants for the ministries of Minister of the Word, Deacon, Community Minister, Lay Pastor, Lay Preacher and Youth Worker, having regard to the Regulations;

- (vii) managing the financial affairs and the general administration of the Congregation including the reception, preparation and presentation of all necessary budgets, statements and reports;
- (viii) managing and controlling property in accordance with the Regulations;
- (ix) preparing and presenting to a meeting of the Congregation an annual report concerning the life and work of the Congregation including its worship, mission and service, and making recommendations with regard to the program for the ensuing year;
- (x) exercising oversight of the appointment of officers and leaders of Congregational organisations;
- (xi) referral of matters to Presbytery as prescribed.

ELECTIONS OF ELDERS AND CHURCH COUNCILLORS

3.1.14 (a) In electing Elders and Church Councillors, the Congregation shall recognise and appoint confirmed members or members-in-association who are endowed with gifts fitting them for the responsibilities of the office.

(b) Election shall be by written ballot in a meeting of the Congregation. Prior notice of intention to hold such a ballot must be given and the names of nominees shall be publicly announced at least two weeks prior to the ballot being held. Nominations must be made in writing to the secretary or other appropriate officer over the signature of two persons who are confirmed members or members-in-association of the Congregation. The meeting shall not be obliged to fill any or all positions vacant and shall declare to be elected only such persons as receive the support of a majority of those participating in the ballot.

(c) The total number of Elders and other Church Councillors to be elected, in addition to any Elders holding life tenure, shall be not fewer than one for every thirty and not more than one for every ten baptised members, confirmed members and members-in-association of the Congregation provided:

- (i) that the Church Council may from time to time advise the Congregation as to the number within the stated limits that should be elected;
- (ii) that a Congregation may be authorised by the Presbytery to elect a Church Council having a number of Councillors which is fewer than the minimum specified above or in excess of the maximum specified above where special circumstances exist.

SETTING APART OF ELDERS AND CHURCH COUNCILLORS

3.1.15 Elders and other Church Councillors shall be set apart by prayer in a service of worship conducted by the Minister of the Congregation, or if unavailable, by another person appointed to perform this duty by the Presbytery.

TERM OF OFFICE

3.1.16 The term of office of an Elder and an elected Church Councillor is such period from one to five years as is stipulated by the nominee and for which period the person is then elected by the Congregation. At the expiry of the term the Elder or Church Councillor shall be eligible for re-election.

ELDERS AND CHURCH COUNCILLORS - TERMINATION OF OFFICE

3.1.17 (a) An Elder and a Church Councillor respectively shall relinquish office in the Congregation and cease to be recognised if he or she:

- (i) resigns from the particular office by notice in writing, posted or delivered to the secretary of the Congregation, which resignation shall be effective from the date of its acceptance by the Congregation; or

- (ii) declines to carry out the responsibilities of the particular office; or
- (iii) transfers membership to another Congregation.

(b) If in the opinion of the Church Council an Elder or Church Councillor is no longer conforming to the standards of a member of the Church, or complying with its discipline or carrying out the responsibilities of the particular office, the Church Council may recommend to a meeting of the Congregation that the Elder or Church Councillor be removed from office, provided that the Elder or Church Councillor so removed shall have the right of appeal to the Presbytery.

CHAIRPERSON

3.1.18 The Church Council shall elect annually one of its members as chairperson.

ACTING CHAIRPERSON

3.1.19 If the elected Chairperson is not present at a meeting, the Church Council may appoint another of its members to act as Chairperson.

SECRETARY

3.1.20 The Church Council shall appoint annually from among its members a secretary who shall keep minutes of meetings of the Church Council, take care of all records and papers of the Congregation, except such as are within the specific responsibility of any other body or officer, and shall carry out other duties as the Church Council may require.

TREASURER

3.1.21 The Church Council shall appoint annually from among its members a treasurer who shall:

- (a) keep the books of account, enter therein a record of all monies received and of all payments made, and produce this at all general meetings of the Congregation;
- (b) lodge all monies received in an account identified as belonging to the Congregation in any one or more of the financial institutions satisfying the requirements of Regulation 5.5.10(b);
- (c) produce the records and other evidence of transactions whenever called upon to do so by the Church Council; and
- (d) prepare financial statements for the consideration of the Church Council and the Congregation.

QUORUM

3.1.22 Not less than one half of the total membership of the Church Council shall constitute a quorum. Should a quorum not be obtained the meeting shall be re-convened.

COMMITTEES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

3.1.23 In fulfilling its role and to assist its functioning the Church Council may appoint an Executive and other committees and/or task groups to assist the Church Council in any of its responsibilities.

3.1.24 Membership of the committees and/or task groups of the Church Council shall not be restricted to members of the Church Council but at least one member of each of such committees and task groups shall be appointed from among the members of the Church Council.

3.1.25 Any Executive, committee or task group shall have only an advisory role unless it has been given a specific power to act, and shall report to the Church Council on a regular basis.

3.1.26 The Church Council may delegate to any committee the power to determine its own rules and procedures unless otherwise prescribed.

AUDIT

3.1.27 The Church Council shall make arrangements for audit, presentation and examination of the accounts of all the funds of the Congregation as required by Regulation 5.5.10.

PARISH MISSION

3.1.28 A Synod, after consultation with the Presbytery, may designate a Congregation or related Congregations within its bounds as a Parish Mission if, in the opinion of the Synod, such Congregation is responsible for approved ministries of such special character and extent that the Congregation should be allowed to do one or more of the following:

(a) to look beyond its own membership and bounds for additional persons to assist in the general oversight and management of the responsibilities of the Congregation;

(b) to seek additional financial support by appeal beyond the bounds of the Congregation, provided that such appeals shall not be addressed to Congregations without prior consent of the appropriate body appointed or designated by the Synod;

(c) to make a case for the extension of ministerial settlements beyond the normal maximum term when the proper exercise of the special ministries so requires.

3.1.29 (a) Except as may be determined in accordance with (b) hereof, Presbytery may, in respect of each Parish Mission, appoint any number from five to twenty persons to be members of the Church Council in addition to those listed in Regulation 3.1.12(a). The Church Council may nominate to the Presbytery names of persons to be considered when such appointments are being made.

(b) Synod may, at its discretion, determine that in regard to any particular Parish Mission the Synod or a Synod body determined by it shall make the additional appointments to Church Council set out in (a) hereof.

3.1.30 A Parish Mission, in addition to such reports as would normally be made by a Congregation to the Presbytery, shall report annually to the Synod or a body determined by the Synod regarding the special ministries and shall present financial statements as the Synod shall determine.

3.1.31 If, in the opinion of the Synod, after consultation with the Presbytery, the special ministries no longer justify the designation of Parish Mission, the designation and the provisions pertaining thereto shall be withdrawn following reasonable notice to the Congregation concerned.

FAITH COMMUNITIES

3.1.32 (a) A Presbytery may recognise as a Faith Community a grouping of people who, seeking to explore the implications of faith in God, gather in order to serve the community and/or nurture one another in faith and/or worship together, and who are seeking to relate to the Church for nurture and support, and who apply to the Presbytery to be recognised as a Faith Community.

(b) A Faith Community may include confirmed members of the Church who hold their membership in a Congregation or who have their membership recorded with the Presbytery.

(c) A Faith Community will order its life, under the oversight of the Presbytery, so as to encourage its participants, develop its mission, and be accountable for its resources, and may seek the guidance of a Presbytery about possible ways to do so.

(d) A Faith Community may appoint leaders from its participants and may designate a participant to attend meetings of the Presbytery.

(e) A Faith Community may apply to Presbytery to be recognised as a Congregation. A Presbytery may request a Faith Community to make such an application.

(f) A Presbytery may cease to recognise a Faith Community.”

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS

- 1.1.1(b) delete all words after “Church” in line 2, so that clause (b) reads:
“(b) persons who at a later date become members in accordance with the procedures of the Church.”
- 1.1.3(a) Replace “Council of Elders” by “Church Council”
- 1.1.6 Replace “Council of Elders” by “Church Council”
- 1.1.7 Replace “Council of Elders” by “Church Council”
- 1.1.11 Replace “Council of Elders” by “Church Council”
- 1.1.12 Replace “Council of Elders” by “Church Council”
- 1.1.13 Delete (b) and renumber the present (c) as (b)
- 1.1.14(a) Replace “Council of Elders” by “Church Council”
- 1.1.14(b) Replace “Council of Elders” by “Church Council”
- 1.1.15(a)(ii) Replace “Parish” by “Congregation”
- 1.1.15(a)(iv) Replace “Council of Elders” by “Church Council”
- 1.1.15(b) Replace “Council of Elders” by “Church Council”
- 1.1.15(c) Replace the two occurrences of “Council of Elders” by “Church Council”
- 1.1.17 Amend to read:
“A member or the parents or guardians of a baptised member moving beyond the bounds of a

Congregation may request and shall be granted by the Church Council a certificate of transfer to a specific Congregation in another place, in which event the name shall be removed from the members' roll. In addition, the Secretary of the Church Council shall forward an appropriate letter to the Secretary of the Church Council related to the new Congregation."

- 1.1.18 Amend to read:
"In the event of a member moving beyond the bounds of the Congregation but no certificate of transfer being sought, the Secretary of the Church Council shall forward an appropriate letter to the Secretary of the Church Council related to the new Congregation, if known. If no request for transfer is received within two years of a member leaving the Congregation the member's name shall be removed from the members' roll and the reason for the removal entered therein."
- 1.1.19 In line 1 replace "Parish" by "Congregation";
in line six replace "Council of Elders" by "Church Council"
- 1.1.20 Replace "Council of Elders" by "Church Council"
- 1.1.21 Replace "Council of Elders" by "Church Council"
- 1.1.23(a) Delete "and the Parish"
- 1.1.23(b) Delete "or Parish"
- 1.1.24 Amend to read:
"In the event of an adherent moving beyond the bounds of a Congregation, the secretary of the Church Council shall forward an appropriate letter informing the secretary of the Church Council related to the new Congregation of the change."
- 2.2.2(a) In lines 2 and 3 replace "Parish" by "Congregation"
- 2.2.3 Amend the heading to read:
"RESPONSIBILITIES OF MINISTER AND CHURCH COUNCIL"
- 2.2.3(a) Replace "Parish Elders Council" by "Church Council"
- 2.2.4 Replace "Parish Elders Council" by "Church Council"
- 2.2.5 Replace "Parish Elders Council" by "Church Council"
- 2.2.6 Replace "Parish Elders Council" by "Church Council"
- 2.2.7(a) Replace "Parish Elders Council" by "Church Council"
- 2.4.5(c)(i) Amend to read:
"eligible for election to the Church Council of the Congregation in which membership is held and to any council or committee appointed by a Congregation, Presbytery, Synod or the Assembly;"
- 2.4.10(d) Replace "Parish Elders Council" by "Church Council"

- 2.5.1(g) In lines 2-3 replace “Parish Elders Council” by “Church Council”;
in line 4 replace “within the Parish” by “in the Congregation”;
in line 5 replace the words “Parish Minister(s)” by “Minister in placement in the Congregation”.
- 2.5.5(b) Replace “Parish” by “Congregation”
- 2.5.5(e) Replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”
- 2.8.2 Amend to read:
“A Lay Preacher is a member of the Church who is authorised to conduct services of worship in the Congregation in which such Lay Preacher holds membership and in any other Congregation to which the Lay Preacher may be invited by the Minister thereof.”
- 2.8.4(b) In lines 2 and 3 replace “Parish” by “Congregation”
- 2.8.4(c) Replace “Parish Elders Council” by “Church Council”
- 2.8.6(a) Replace “Parish Elders Council” by “Church Council”
- 2.8.6(f) Replace “Parish Elders Council” by “Church Council”
- 2.8.7 Amend heading to read “TRANSFER TO ANOTHER CONGREGATION”;
in lines 1 and 2 replace “Parish” by “Congregation”
- 2.8.8 In lines 1 and 3 replace “Parish” by “Congregation”;
in lines 2 and 7 replace “Parish Elders Council” by “Church Council”
- 2.8.8 shall then read:
“At the time of any consultation on the life and witness of a Congregation in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 3.4.5, the Church Council shall review the list of Lay Preachers recognised within the Congregation, and shall enquire as to whether they continue to perform the ministry to which they have been accredited. The result of that review shall be reported to the Presbytery. In cases of doubt as to whether a Lay Preacher satisfies the requirements of the office, explanation or amendment of the situation shall be sought by the Church Council. If still unsatisfactory the Lay Preacher concerned shall be warned that recognition may be withdrawn.”
- 2.8.9(b) Replace “Parish Elders Council” by “Church Council”
- 2.8.11 Replace “Parish Elders Council” by “Church Council”
- 2.9.3 At two points in line 3 replace “Parish” by “Congregation”
- 2.9.4 Amend the heading to read:
“RESPONSIBILITIES OF MINISTER AND CHURCH COUNCIL”
- 2.9.4(a) Replace “Parish Elders Council” by “Church Council”

- 2.9.5 Replace "Parish Elders Council" by "Church Council"
- 2.9.6 Replace "Parish Elders Council" by "Church Council"
- 2.9.7 Replace "Parish Elders Council" by "Church Council"
- 2.9.9(a) Replace "Parish Elders Council" by "Church Council"
- 2.10.1(a) Amend the first line of clause (a) and amend sub-clause (a)(i) to read:
“(a) A Youth Worker in an approved placement in a Congregation shall:
(i) be placed on the roll of confirmed members or members-in-association of the Congregation and shall be a member of the Church Council of the Congregation;”
- 2.10.1(a)(ii) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation"
- 2.10.1(d) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation"
- 2.11.1(b) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation"
- 2.11.2(a) Amend to read:
“(a) Placement of a Youth Worker in a Congregation within the bounds of a Presbytery shall be made by the Presbytery in response to a request from the Congregation and after consultation with the Advisory Committee on Ministerial Placements which shall exercise an overview of Youth Worker placements in the Synod.”
- 2.11.2(e) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation"
- 2.11.3(d) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation"
- 2.11.4(a) Amend the final sentence to read:
“In the case of a placement in a Congregation the decision of the Presbytery shall be made on the advice of the Church Council.”
- 2.11.4(b)(i) Amend the opening words to read “In the case of placements in a Congregation,”
- 2.11.4(b)(iv) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation"
- 2.11.4(c) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation"
- 2.11.5(b) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation"
- 2.11.5(c) Amend to read:
“The Presbytery shall consider any request for termination of a placement in a Congregation made by the Church Council pursuant to a resolution carried by a two-thirds majority of members present at a special meeting.”
- 2.11.5(d) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation"
- 2.11.6 Replace "Parish" by "Congregation"

- 2.11.9 Replace “Parishes” by “Congregations”
- 2.12.4(a) Delete “Parish”
- 2.12.4(b) Delete “and Parishes”
- 2.12.4(c) Delete “and Parishes”
- 2.12.22(a)(i) Amend to read:
“a member of the appropriate Church Council and of other bodies as defined in the position description;”
- 2.12.22(b)(i) Amend to read:
“a member of the appropriate Church Council and of other bodies as defined in the position description;”
- 2.13.3 In lines 2 and 4 replace “Parish” by “Congregation”
- 2.13.4(a) Replace “Parish” by “Congregation” and “Parish Elders Council” by “Church Council”
- 2.13.12(a) Amend to read:
“(a) included on the roll of confirmed members of a Congregation in which the Lay Pastor is placed, or, where the placement is other than in a Congregation, included on the roll of confirmed members of the Congregation with which the Lay Pastor chooses to be actively involved;”
- 2.13.12(b) Amend to read:
“(b) a member of the Church Council of the Congregation in which the Lay Pastor is placed;”
- 2.13.16 Replace “Parish” by “Congregation”
- 2.13.18 Replace “Parish” by “Congregation”
- 2.13.19(b) Replace “Parish Elders Council” by “Church Council”
- 2.13.19(c) Replace “Parish” by “Congregation”
- 2.13.19 In the second last sentence replace “Parish” by “Congregation”
- 3.2.1 – 3.3.20 **Delete Regulations 3.2.1 – 3.3.20**, without consequent renumbering – ie. maintain 3.4 for Presbytery, 3.5 for Synod, 3.6 for Assembly
- 3.4.4 In line 3 delete “and Parishes”
- 3.4.4(b) Replace “Parishes” by “Congregations”

3.4.4(c) Replace “Parishes” by “Congregations”

3.4.4(e) Replace “Parishes” by “Congregations”

3.4.4(k) Replace “Parish” by “Congregation”

3.4.4(r) Replace “Parishes” by “Congregations”

3.4.5 Amend heading to read:
“CONSULTATIONS ON LIFE AND WITNESS OF A CONGREGATION”

3.4.5 Amend to read:
“(a) Consultations on the life and witness of a Congregation shall be conducted by the Presbytery with the Congregation including any Ministers, Youth Workers and Lay Pastors serving in placements in the Congregation and any Community Ministers serving in the Congregation.

(b) The purpose of the consultation shall be to strengthen the life and witness of the Congregation, to assess future ministerial and lay leadership needs, and to review the records of the Congregation.

(c) A consultation shall normally take place every five years at the discretion of the Presbytery regardless of the duration of any current placement.

(d) The Presbytery may conduct a consultation at any time on its own initiative, or at the request of the Church Council or of a Minister serving in a placement in the Congregation.

(e) Any such consultation shall be conducted with such bodies and persons within the Congregation as is thought fit, and by such persons as the Presbytery appoints, and they shall report to the Presbytery and the Congregation with such recommendations regarding the life and witness of the Congregation (including matters relating to placements) as they think fit.”

3.4.13 Replace “Parishes” with “Congregations”;
add a new second sentence which reads:
“If a Minister, Youth Worker or Lay Pastor is serving in an approved placement in more than one Congregation, that person shall be deemed to represent all those Congregations for the purpose of determining whether at least half the number of Congregations are represented at the meeting.”

3.4.15(c)(i) Amend to read:
“One confirmed lay member elected by each Congregation. Where a Congregation includes more than 150 confirmed members and members-in-association in total, one additional confirmed lay member may be elected by the Congregation.”

3.4.15(c)(ii) Replace “Parishes” by “Congregations”

- 3.4.15(e) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation" so that the relevant sentence reads:
"The number of co-opted members from any one Congregation shall not exceed three."
- 3.4.38(c)(i) Replace "Parishes" by "Congregations"
- 3.4.38(c)(ii) Replace "Parish" by "Congregational"
- 3.4.38(c)(v) Replace "Parishes" by "Congregations"
- 3.4.38(c)(ix) Replace "Parish Elders Council" by "Church Council"
- 3.5.2(d) Replace "Parishes" by "Congregations"
- 3.5.35(a)(ii) Replace "Parish Council" by "Church Council"
- 3.5.36 In lines 2 and 5 replace "Parishes" by "Congregations"
- 3.5.37 Amend the heading to read:
"ASSISTANCE TO CONGREGATIONS AND PRESBYTERIES";
in line 1 replace "Parishes" by "Congregations"
- 3.6.34 In line 9 delete "parishes";
in line 13 delete "parish"
- 4.2.1(c) Replace "Parish Councils" by "Church Councils"
- 4.2.1(d) Replace "Parish Councils" by "Church Councils"
- 4.2.1(f) Replace "Parish Councils" by "Church Councils"
- 4.3.2(a)(i) Replace "Parish Councils" by "Church Councils"
- 4.3.2(a)(ii) Replace "Parish Councils" by "Church Councils"
- 4.3.2(a)(iii) Replace "Parish Council" by "Church Council"
- 4.3.2(a)(v) Replace "Parish Councils" by "Church Councils"
- 4.4 Amend heading to section 4.4 to read "THE CHURCH COUNCIL"
- 4.4.1 In line 2 replace "Parish Council" by "Church Council";
in line 4 replace "Parish" by "Congregation"
- 4.4.1(b) Amend to read:
"subject to clause (e) of this Regulation, determine the use of land and buildings;"
- 4.4.1(g) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation"

4.4.3 In lines 1, 3-4 and 6 replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

4.4.4 Replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

4.4.5 In lines 1, 3 and 4 replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

4.4.5(c) Replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

4.4.5(d) Replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

4.5 Amend the heading to read:
“PROPERTY OTHER THAN CONGREGATIONAL PROPERTY”

4.5.2(a) Replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

4.6.1(a) Replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

4.6.1(b) Replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

4.6.2(b) Replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

4.6.3 Replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

4.8.1(c)(v) Replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

4.11.1(b) Replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

5.3.4(a) Replace “Parishes” by “Congregations”

5.4.1 Replace “Parishes” by “Congregations”

5.5 Amend heading to section 5.5 to read “CONGREGATIONAL FUNDS”

5.5.1 Amend to read:

“A Congregation shall establish a fund to be known as the Congregational Fund, which will be administered by the Church Council. The Presbytery may authorise Congregations which are related to each other to establish a joint Congregational Fund, and if there is more than one Church Council the Presbytery shall determine which Church Council will administer the joint Congregational Fund.”

5.5.2 In line 1 replace “Parish Fund” by “Congregational Fund”;
in the last line replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

5.5.2(a) Amend to read:
“(a) all offerings received at services of worship of the Congregation”

5.5.2(b) Replace “Parish” by “Congregation”

5.5.2(c) Replace “Parish Council” by “Church Council”

- 5.5.2(d) Replace "Parish Council" by "Church Council"
- 5.5.3 Replace "Parish Fund" by "Church Fund"
- 5.5.3(b) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation"
- 5.5.3(d) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation or Church Council"
- 5.5.4 In line 2 replace "Parish" by "Church Council";
in line 3 replace "Parish Council" by "Church Council";
in line 3-4 replace "Parish Council" by "Church Council".
- 5.5.5 In line 1 replace "Parish Council" by "Church Council";
in line 2 replace "within the bounds of the Parish" with "under the oversight of the Church Council";
in line 3 replace "Parish Council" by "Church Council".
- 5.5.7 Replace "Parish" by "Congregation, Church Council"
- 5.5.9(a)(i) Replace "Parish" by "Congregation"
- 5.5.10(a) Replace "Parish Council" by "Church Council"
- 5.5.10(c) Replace "Parish Council" by "Church Council"
- 5.5.10(f) In line 3 replace "Parishes" by "Congregations" and "Parish" by "Congregational"
- 5.5.10(g) In line 2 replace "Parish Council" by "Church Council";
in line 6 replace "Parishes" by "Congregations"
- 5.5.10(h)(i) Amend to read:
"a Congregation and its organisations - in the manner directed and approved by the Church Council;
- 6.1.3 In lines 1-2 delete "and parishes";
in line 2 replace "parishes" by "Congregations"
- 6.7.1(a) Replace "parish" by "Congregational"
- 7.1.3 Replace "Council of Elders" by "Church Council"
- 7.2.1 Replace "Council of Elders" by "Church Council"
- 7.2.2 Replace "Council of Elders" by "Church Council"
- 7.2.3 Replace "Council of Elders" by "Church Council"
- 7.2.4 Replace "Council of Elders" by "Church Council"

- 7.2.6(a) Replace “Council of Elders” by “Church Council”
- 7.7.16(f) Delete “and to a Parish”
- 7.13.1 Replace “Parish” by “Congregation”

**Approved by Assembly Standing Committee
November 1998**

INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS

The Assembly Standing Committee recognises that not all Congregations and Presbyteries will have concluded their planning for the new local structures by 4 April 1999. Accordingly Standing Committee carried the following resolutions in November 1998.

- “1. (a) determine that the amendments to the Constitution and Regulations pertaining to Congregations and Church Councils take effect on 4 April 1999;
- (b) request presbyteries to assist congregations to establish structures which are consistent with the amended Constitution and Regulations;
- (c) determine that all Councils of Elders, Parish Councils and Parish Elders Councils be dissolved on 4 April 1999;
2. (a) determine that the following interim arrangements:
- (i) will take effect on 4 April 1999; and
- (ii) will cease when a congregation forms a Church Council or the congregation and one or more other congregations form a joint Church Council but in any event no later than 31 December 2000;
- (b) an interim Church Council will exercise the powers and fulfil the responsibilities of the Church Council under the Constitution and Regulations;
- (c) subject to paragraph (d), the interim Church Council shall consist of:
- (i) the Ministers, Youth Workers and Lay Pastors who are serving in approved placements in the Congregation;
- (ii) Ministers, being members of the Congregation, who are Ministers-in-Association in accordance with Regulation 2.5.1(g);
- (iii) Elders of the Congregation;
- (iv) subject to paragraph (e), confirmed members or members in association of the Congregation who were members of the Parish Council on 3 April 1999;
- (d) if the membership of an interim Church Council under paragraph (c) would be less

than 5 persons, the Presbytery may authorise the Congregational meeting to act as the interim Church Council;

- (e) paragraph (c)(iv) will not apply if its application would result in Elders comprising less than half the membership unless the Presbytery authorises otherwise;
- (f) the following Regulations shall not apply to an interim Church Council:
- 3.1.12(a);
 - 3.1.14 insofar as it applies to election of Church Councillors who are not Elders;
 - 3.1.16 the term of office of the persons referred to in paragraph (c)(iv) shall continue until the interim arrangements cease or Regulation 3.1.17 applies.”

Gregor Henderson
Assembly General Secretary
18 November 1998

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