**Appendix - Membership of Mission Partnership**

The following criteria are to apply for membership of the Mission Partnership under the Standing Orders.

1. **Orthodoxy**

 All members will subscribe to the basis of faith as set forth in the Standing Orders and reproduced here:

*MK Mission Partnership unites in pilgrimage those churches in MK and the surrounding areas which, acknowledging God’s revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God’s will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves:
• to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body; and
• to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world
to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

1. **Aims and Objectives**

 The aims and objectives of all members are to be compatible with those of the Mission Partnership as set forth in the Constitution of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation paragraph 3 and reproduced here:

*To advance the Christian faith by drawing together Christian communities from Milton Keynes and the surrounding area to further the ‘Five Marks of Mission’ which have been adopted by the Forum of Churches Together in England and any other purposes which are charitable in law to the benefit of all those living within the borough of Milton Keynes and, through outreach programmes, beyond the borough.*

1. **Legal, constitutional and trust requirements**

Members are under a legal duty to exercise their powers as a member in good faith and in order to further the purposes of Milton Keynes Mission Partnership. Any conflict of interest must be declared.

1. **Viability and Standing**

 Under Class 3 membership, the following requirements are specified:

* Location is to be stable and meetings regular and advertised
* Leadership is to be stable
* Evidence of legal status is to be supplied (eg constitution, trust deed)
* Financial stability over a 3 year period is to be demonstrated
* An acceptable safeguarding policy is to be supplied
* Members are to have good standing with the local community and other church leaders. Good standing shall be taken to include the absence of practice which would be divisive of existing membership.

 Under Class 5 membership, the following requirements are specified:

* Location is to be stable
* Evidence of a governing body which meets regularly is to be supplied. [Governing body means a group of individuals (as opposed to one individual person) who are duly elected or appointed to manage the member]
* Evidence of legal status is to be supplied (eg constitution, trust deed)
* Financial stability over a three year period is to be demonstrated.
* An acceptable safeguarding policy is to be supplied where applicable.
* Members are to have good standing with the local community and with church leaders. Good standing shall be taken to include the absence of practice which would be divisive of existing membership.
1. **Financial Relationship**

All members under class 3 and class 5 membership agree to support the Mission Partnership financially. The financial commitment is set annually by trustees. For class 3, this is on a capitation basis. For class 5, this will be at a flat rate agreed by trustees or by negotiation with trustees.

1. **Process**

Applications for membership under class 3 and class 5 will be determined by the following process:

* + 1. Informal meeting(s) with the Director of Ecumenical Mission and one other representative of the Mission Partnership.
		2. Submission of a formal written application for membership, sponsored by an existing member church.
		3. Meeting(s) with a scrutiny committee appointed by the Trustees including a formal review of the criteria delineated above. The scrutiny committee will be composed of members from at least three of the existing member churches.
		4. Report and recommendation made by scrutiny committee to the Trustees.
		5. Membership established by a vote of not less than 75% of Trustees present and voting.
		6. In the event of an application being refused, reasons will be given for the decision within 28 days of the decision being taken and the applicant given the opportunity to appeal against the refusal. Fair consideration will be given to any such appeal. The applicant will be informed of the decision but any decision to confirm the refusal of the application for membership shall be final.

The process will take not less than 6 months and not more than 1 year.

1. **Withdrawal of membership Status**

 If any member at any stage is perceived to fail to fulfil the membership requirements, the scrutiny committee will investigate and make a report to the Trustees as delineated under 6 iv above. The Trustees will follow the procedure laid out in the constitution. If membership status is withdrawn, re-application for membership can be made according to 6 above only after a period of one year.

12th May 2014