**Standing Orders of the Mission Partnership**

**Introduction**

The Standing Orders are to be read in association with the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Constitution.

**Definitions:**

‘Mission Strategy’ shall mean the strategic plan agreed by the Trustees

‘5 Mission Priorities’ the objectives of the charity identify the ‘5 marks of mission’ as the mission priorities

**1. Belonging to MK Mission Partnership**

All members are expected and entitled

* to make an active contribution to the life of MK Mission Partnership,
* to develop its fellowship,
* to guide its policy.

Additionally, member Churches and organisations are expected to contribute financially.

**Classes of Membership**

Members will come from 5 groups:

1. Regional denominational leaders whose Churches and congregations either participate in MK LEPs or whose faith communities are members of Churches Together in England.
2. Milton Keynes Clergy and Chaplains who are active in Churches and congregations which either participate in MK LEPs or whose faith communities are members of Churches Together in England and/or the Evangelical Alliance.
3. Any Church (LEP and other churches, congregations and Christian faith communities) may apply for membership under the conditions outlined in the appendix ‘Membership of Mission Partnership’ below and may send two representatives. Anyone associated with a member Church is invited to attend the regular Assemblies of the Mission Partnership. For voting purposes, each representative of a member Church has one vote. Churches should develop their own transparent and appropriate processes for such nominations and inform the Mission Partnership of the named representatives on an annual basis.
4. Up to twelve additional individuals may be nominated by the trustee body as members by virtue of their particular knowledge, skills, expertise or representative capacity for a period of up to three years (renewable).
5. Up to ten local Christian-based organizations may be invited by the trustee body to apply for membership for a period of up to three years (renewable) under the conditions outlined in the appendix ‘Membership of Mission Partnership’ below and may send two representatives. Anyone associated with a member organisation is invited to attend the regular Assemblies of the Mission Partnership. For voting purposes, each representative of a member organisation has one vote. Organisations should develop their own transparent and appropriate processes for such nominations and inform the Mission Partnership of the named representatives on an annual basis.

All Trustees are required to be members or members of churches or organisations which are members.

Members have the right to attend all meetings and vote at egms and agms.

**Individuals and Bodies in affiliation : informal or associate (non-voting) membership**

As well as members we welcome individuals who wish to associate themselves with activities of the Mission Partnership who do not wish or are unable to become members.

A group which shares our Basis as defined below and our Objects as defined in para 3 of the CIO constitution may become a ‘Body in Affiliation’. Bodies in Affiliation may attend any meeting including agms and egms, and submit reports but may not vote.

**Application for Membership of MK Mission Partnership**

Criteria and process for membership are set out in the Appendix Membership of Mission Partnership.

**Basis**

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.

**2. Trustees**

**Purpose**

In carrying out their responsibilities as set out in the CIO constitution they shall in particular:

* Approve and monitor the Mission Strategy
* Approve and monitor the annual budget and agree the subscription rate for membership
* Receive and consider reports from the Mission Capacity and Projects Group and the Operations Group
* Appoint a scrutiny panel for new applications for membership
* Approve recommendations for new membership from the scrutiny panel

**Membership**

The board of Trustees will consist of 15 members, made up of:

* Up to 8 Trustees elected by the membership;
* 5 Trustees by right of post: The Baptist Regional Minister; the Bishop of Buckingham; the Bishop of Northampton; the Chair of the Northampton District; The Moderator of the East Midlands Synod
* Not more than two Trustees nominated by the existing trustee body as recommended by the Director of Ecumenical Mission to represent locally based congregations not otherwise represented through the denominational leaders specified above

They shall meet not less than three times a year.

The quorum will be three charity Trustees or the number nearest to one third of the total number of charity Trustees whichever is greater, or such larger number as the charity Trustees may decide from time to time. Elected Trustees will serve for a maximum 3 year term and are eligible to stand again for three further terms.

The Board may co-opt members to fill vacancies. Such co-opted members will be required to resign and stand at the next AGM for election onto the Board.

The Board shall agree a skills matrix relevant to meeting the needs of the activities of the Mission Partnership and seek to make appointments to ensure that it has the necessary skills to effectively manage its work.

The Board will elect a Chair from within its own membership. The Board may also appoint a Secretary and Treasurer from beyond its own membership.

**3. Standing Groups**

The Board of Trustees will establish three standing groups. These will be:

**(i) The Operations Group**

**Purpose:**

Accountable to the Board of Trustees ensuring the efficient day-to-day operation of the charity by:

* supporting the Director of Ecumenical Mission in carrying out the Mission Partnership Objectives
* Managing legal, financial and operational demands including

Finance, charity status, office, safeguarding, data protection, resourcing

The Finance Group would be a sub group of this function

* Overseeing programming demands including

Planning and scheduling of workstream and priorities

This would include work that doesn’t fit directly into the Mission Capacity and Projects programme such as YMCA, CF, MAPUM, parish development work

* Overseeing communications demands including

Office communications, web, Facebook, news media, MP reps, networks

* Ensuring events delivery including

Presidents, Trustees and Assembly meetings; mission fairs and similar

The Operations Group will meet not less than six times a year.

**Membership**

The core membership will be appointed by the Board of Trustees and will co-opt additional members to enable the efficient operation of the Charity’s activities. It will include:

* The Chair of Trustees
* The Treasurer
* The Team Leader of the Sector Team
* The Director of Ecumenical Mission

The Group will be chaired by the Director of Ecumenical Mission.

**(ii) The Mission Capacity and Projects Group**

**Purpose:**

The group will seek to drive forward the mission strategy approved by the Trustees by:

* preparing, after consultation with the members and other stakeholders, the mission strategy for approval of the Board of Trustees
* building awareness and developing analysis of mission context and its implications for strategy
* engaging in theological reflection on mission praxis
* building capacity for mission through specific strategic attention to
* Leadership and Vision
* Adult Learning
* Prayer
* discerning strategically appropriate additional mission projects to be fostered. The number of such projects should not exceed three at any one time
* establishing working groups to ensure delivery of the elements of the mission strategy
* seeking appropriate partnerships to further the mission strategy
* ensuring that emphasis is given to all 5 mission priorities
* gathering and disseminating information on mission activities
* developing events and activities that support the delivery of the mission strategy

**Membership**

The group will consist of:

* at least one trustee
* individuals to represent each of the strategic areas, three for building capacity and one for each mission project.
* co-opted members.
* the Director of Ecumenical Mission

The group will have the right to co-opt as necessary and will be chaired by the Director of Ecumenical Mission

It will meet at least six times a year.

**(iii) The Finance Group**

**Purpose**

The Finance Group will:

* review and monitor the finances of the charity
* prepare regular reports for the Board of Directors and to support the work of other Standing Groups
* negotiate with supporting denominations and member churches contributions towards the running costs of the Mission Partnership
* support treasurers from LEPs and member denominations from the Sponsoring Network to identify and collect payments due to denominational bodies

**Membership**

The members of this group will be appointed by the Trustees and approved by the Ecumenical Oversight Group. It will formally be a sub-group of the Operations Group and bring all necessary matters to that group

The group will consist of:

* The Treasurer
* Chair of Trustees
* Director of Ecumenical Mission
* Co-opted members as required

This group is chaired by the Treasurer.

Members of the group will from time-to-time meet with the treasurers and financial representatives of the member denominations represented on the Ecumenical Oversight Group and also as necessary the Treasurers of LEPs and LEP member Churches. It will meet at least four times a year. The Treasurer reports to every meeting of the EOG.

11th July 2018