

Partnership Agreement for a Local Ecumenical Partnership

Help and Guidance

This document explains and guides what you should write in the various fields available for editing. Please note you will not be able to change any text in the document that is not highlighted in **red writing**. Paragraph numbers below refer to paragraph numbers in the Partnership Agreement.

Text you have altered **will remain in red**, so that those with responsibility for checking constitutions can see at a glance the changes made.

The Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP)

- 1) The drop down list gives the option of an 'unincorporated association' or 'a Charitable Incorporated Organisation'. The text should match the constitution you have chosen for your LEP.

'Name of LEP' – delete the text 'name of LEP' and replace with the name of your LEP.

Area of Benefit

- 4) Delete the text and replace with the description of the area of benefit of the LEP. This should match the description in your constitution.

The Partners

- 5) Replace the text in each line with the name of the denominational body of each of the partner churches in your LEP: e.g. the Church of England, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, etc.

If you have fewer than four partners, delete the text in the remaining line(s) and replace with the word 'deleted'.

- 6) Replace the text in each line with the name of the local Churches participating in your LEP. If your partners are currently existing churches that have decided to work together in an LEP, you should put their names. If your LEP is a new church plant, you can put 'a Baptist church within the xxx Baptist Association', 'a United Reformed Church within the xxx Synod', etc.

If you have fewer than four partners, delete the text in the remaining line(s) and replace with the word 'deleted'.

- 7) Replace the text in each line with the appropriate names of the local church partners and their relevant authority.

For the Church of England the appropriate authority will usually be the Bishop of the local Diocese.

For the Methodist Church the appropriate authority will usually be the local Circuit and District.

For the United Reformed Church the appropriate authority will be the local Synod.

For the Baptist church, the text is there for you.

As before, if you do not yet have a particular church partner in your LEP, replace the text with 'deleted'.

Christian Initiation and Belonging

- 12) The text in red type MUST be included if you have a Baptist church as a partner in your LEP. If you do not have a Baptist partner, you can delete the text and replace with the word 'deleted'.
- 13) Delete any irrelevant lines (replace with 'deleted').

Relationship with the Participating Denominations

- 29) Note that for the Methodist church, this means that the trustees will function as the Methodist Church Council during the currency of a direction of the Synod under Standing Order 611 of the Methodist Church, for the purposes and with the additional persons specified therein.