

**The Registration of PCCs with the Charity Commission
Bulletin No 4 : July 2009**

Single Congregation LEPs

The following letter provides guidance to Single Congregation LEPs on registering with the Charity Commission. The contact for queries is Roger Paul (Roger.Paul@c-of-e.org.uk)

To Ministers and Church Officers of Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnerships and Diocesan Secretaries

Re: Charity Registration of Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) with an annual income in excess of £100,000

Charity Commission Approval and Ecumenical Agreement of a Model Constitution for single Congregation LEPs

Single Congregation Local Ecumenical Partnerships with an annual income in excess of £100,000 are now required to register as charities with the Charity Commission. Work has been progressing nationally to draft a model constitution for a single congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership to facilitate this. This document has now been:

- 1 Scrutinised and agreed by participating Churches' national legal officers and national ecumenical Officers
- 2 Approved by the Churches Group for Local Unity
- 3 Approved by the Charity Commission as a 'model governing document' for the purposes of registration.

The timescale in which Single Congregation LEPs will need to register

Although reference has been made to a deadline for registration is 1st October 2009, we have been assured that the Charity Commission has some flexibility in this. The date of 1st October is part of a timetable that was agreed between the Charity Commission and the Office of the Third Sector for the registration of excepted and exempt charities. However, from an individual charity's point of view there is no specific date by which it must register. So if it isn't possible for all LEPs to register until January or February 2010 that should not be a problem. Obviously, however, given that they are subject to a duty to

register, LEPs with incomes in excess of £100,000 should aim to register as soon as they practicably can.

Fast Track Registration now available

Single Congregation LEPs adopting the Charity Commission approved Constitution will be eligible for fast track registration. The Churches Group for Local Unity is also recommending a fast track procedure for adopting the Constitution and gaining approval from the appropriate authorities of the Churches participating in the LEP.

A workshop (with representatives from the Church of England, Methodist Church, United Reformed Church and Baptist Union) is being planned for early autumn to help LEPs work through this process, and County Ecumenical Officers will also be fully briefed. Full details will be available soon.

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