



GLOBAL CRITERIA FOR AFFILIATION OF LOCAL CHURCHES

(As approved by General Conference XX, Toronto 2001)

The Universal Standard

In 2001, the MCC General Conference adopted criteria to express the minimum standard to be met by any congregation seeking either to affiliate with or to retain their affiliation with UFMCC. In order to gain recognition as a member congregation of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, regardless of where the church is located, the following criteria must be met:

1. Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.
2. Demonstration of willingness to embrace UFMCC Bylaws as a covenantal relationship.
3. Pastoral leadership that meets the standards established by the UFMCC Bylaws.
4. Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in:
 - a. Meeting all other criteria, and
 - b. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined by UFMCC.
5. Be able to compensate a pastor, consistent with equitable local standards.
6. Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.
7. Governance structure that assures accountability to the congregation and to the UFMCC Bylaws.
8. Submission of an annual report to UFMCC.
9. Submission of local church Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures to the UFMCC, following their approval by UFMCC.
10. Maintain minimum standards for risk management, as established by UFMCC.

Global Diversity

As a global movement with a presence in many countries, MCC recognizes that the universal standard must be interpreted for application within each church's particular context. What is needed in order to meet the universal standard can vary from country to country. For instance, "minimum standards for risk management" that would be appropriate in one country might be inadequate in another country. For this reason, MCC has established protocols as the indicators of readiness for affiliation for each global area:

[Africa](#)
[Canada](#)
[United States](#)

[Asia](#)
[Europe](#)

[Australasia](#)
[Latin America/Caribbean](#)

COMPARISON OF GLOBAL PROTOCOLS FOR AFFILIATION

<p>1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.</p>
<p>APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about MCC core values, vision, and mission. • Every aspect of the church’s ministry both inside and outside of the church is compatible with and reflects the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.
<p>2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace UFMCC Bylaws as a covenantal relationship.</p>
<p>APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and MCC and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by UFMCC. • The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC does not have a bank account, the church’s financial report reflects that the 10% tithe due to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
<p>3- Pastoral leadership that meets the standards established by the UFMCC Bylaws.</p>
<p>APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pastoral leader has been authorized by UFMCC. • The pastoral leader has participated in at least one relevant learning activity during the year prior to applying for affiliation. • If MCC clergy, the pastoral leader maintains a license to practice. • If ordained by another denomination, MCC has approved the pastoral leader’s application for Standing by Call. • If laity, the pastoral leader has successfully completed the MCC L.E.A.D. program or is meeting the leader’s L.E.A.D. Ministry Action Plan. • If seeking ordination by MCC, the pastoral leader is meeting the formation requirements, as indicated in the leader’s Ministry Action Plan. • The pastoral leader has signed the MCC Code of Conduct.
<p>4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. Meeting all other criteria, and</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with UFMCC.</p>
<p>APPLIES DIFFERENTLY IN EACH GLOBAL AREA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has maintained an average worship attendance of at least ___ people during the six months prior to applying for affiliation. <div style="margin-left: 40px;"> Africa: 25 people Asia: 25 people Australasia: 25 people Canada: 35 people Europe: 25 people Latin America/Caribbean: 25 people United States: 35 people </div> <p>APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The average worship attendance trend shows an increasing level of attendance during the 12 months prior to applying for affiliation.

APPLIES DIFFERENTLY IN EACH GLOBAL AREA

Africa, Asia, Latin America/Caribbean

- The average monthly income has met regular expenses for the six months prior to applying for affiliation.

Australasia, Canada, Europe, United States

- The average monthly income has exceeded regular expenses for the six months prior to applying for affiliation.

5- Be able to compensate a pastor, consistent with equitable local standards.

APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS

- The financial report for the six months prior to applying for affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses.
- There is a written Covenant between the Pastor and the church that includes a position description and compensation level, and that has been signed by the Pastor and the Board and affirmed by the Office of Emerging Ministries.
- Compensation actually paid to the pastor for at least the six months prior to applying for affiliation meets or exceeds the compensation amount that is reflected in the Covenant between the Pastor and the Church.

6- Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.

APPLIES DIFFERENTLY IN EACH GLOBAL AREA

Canada, United States, and nations in all global areas where incorporation/registration of a church is legally permitted.

- Criteria 6 applies.

United States

- The church has incorporated with the State government.
- The church has been granted an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service.

Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, Latin America/Caribbean

- Criteria 6 does not apply to emerging churches located in countries where incorporation or registration of churches would not be granted to an MCC church or where an attempt to incorporate or register the church with the government could put the members of the church at risk of personal injury or harm.

7- Governance structure that assures accountability to the congregation and to the UFMCC Bylaws.

APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS

- The church has an administrative body (Board of Directors, Church Council, Church Committee, etc.) that is elected by and reports to the Members of the church.
- The church Bylaws and any other internal governance documents have been approved by UFMCC.
- The church conducts an official decision-making meeting of the Members at least once a year.

8- Submission of an annual report to UFMCC.

APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS

- An emerging church applying for affiliation has submitted the Annual Report Form for at least the year prior to applying for affiliation.
- An affiliated church submits the Annual Report Form each year after affiliation.

9- Submission of local church Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures to the UFMCC, following their approval by the Office of Emerging Ministries.

APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS

- The church has submitted the approved Bylaws and/or other internal governance documents to UFMCC, following adoption by the Members of the church.

10- Maintain minimum standards for risk management, as established by UFMCC.

APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS

- The church follows sound and fiscally responsible procedures for receiving, reserving, disbursing, and reporting on its money.
- The church follows appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who participate in church-sponsored activities.
- The church has adopted policies and procedures that address such matters as sexual harassment and sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination and exclusion, conflict management, etc.
- The church usually gathers in spaces that are structurally sound and meet the local building code.
- The church has a written procedure to be followed by the local administrative body when considering allegations of disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty by a church Member, Lay Delegate, or Board member.

Applying for Affiliation – To apply for affiliation, the Emerging Church should provide the MCC Office of Emerging Ministries with written evidence that all of the criteria have been met. The application is to be submitted to:

Rev. Elder Darlene Garner
RevDarleneGarner@MCCchurch.net

AFRICA PROTOCOL FOR AFFILIATION

<p>1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about MCC core values, vision, and mission. • Every aspect of the church’s ministry both inside and outside of the church is compatible with and reflects the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.
<p>2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace UFMCC Bylaws as a covenantal relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and MCC and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by UFMCC. • The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC does not have a bank account, the church’s financial report reflects that the 10% tithe due to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
<p>3- Pastoral leadership that meets the standards established by the UFMCC Bylaws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pastoral leader has been authorized by UFMCC. • The pastoral leader has participated in at least one relevant learning activity during the year prior to applying for affiliation. • If MCC clergy, the pastoral leader maintains a license to practice. • If ordained by another denomination, MCC has approved the pastoral leader’s application for Standing by Call. • If laity, the pastoral leader has successfully completed the MCC L.E.A.D. program or is meeting the leader’s L.E.A.D. Ministry Action Plan. • If seeking ordination by MCC, the pastoral leader is meeting the formation requirements, as indicated in the leader’s Ministry Action Plan. • The pastoral leader has signed the MCC Code of Conduct.
<p>4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in:</p> <p>a. Meeting all other criteria, and</p> <p>b. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with UFMCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has maintained an average worship attendance of at least 25 people during the six months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average worship attendance trend shows an increasing level of attendance during the 12 months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average monthly income has met regular expenses for the six months prior to applying for affiliation.
<p>5- Be able to compensate a pastor, consistent with equitable local standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial report for the six months prior to applying for affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a written Covenant between the Pastor and the church that includes a position description and compensation level, and that has been signed by the Pastor and the Board and affirmed by the Office of Emerging Ministries. • Compensation actually paid to the pastor for at least the six months prior to applying for affiliation meets or exceeds the compensation amount that is reflected in the Covenant between the Pastor and the Church.
<p>6- Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This criteria does not apply to emerging churches located in countries where incorporation or registration of churches would not be granted to an MCC church or where an attempt to incorporate or register the church with the government could put the members of the church at risk of personal injury or harm.
<p>7- Governance structure that assures accountability to the congregation and to the UFMCC Bylaws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has an administrative body (Board of Directors, Church Council, Church Committee, etc.) that is elected by and reports to the Members of the church. • The church Bylaws and any other internal governance documents have been approved by UFMCC. • The church conducts an official decision-making meeting of the Members at least once a year.
<p>8- Submission of an annual report to UFMCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emerging church applying for affiliation has submitted the Annual Report Form for at least the year prior to applying for affiliation. • An affiliated church submits the Annual Report Form each year after affiliation.
<p>9- Submission of local church Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures to the UFMCC, following their approval by the Office of Emerging Ministries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has submitted the approved Bylaws and/or other internal governance documents to UFMCC, following adoption by the Members of the church.
<p>10- Maintain minimum standards for risk management, as established by UFMCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church follows sound and fiscally responsible procedures for receiving, reserving, disbursing, and reporting on its money. • The church follows appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who participate in church-sponsored activities. • The church has adopted policies and procedures that address such matters as sexual harassment and sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination and exclusion, conflict management, etc. • The church usually gathers in spaces that are structurally sound and meet the local building code. • The church has a written procedure to be followed by the Board when considering allegations of disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty by a church Member or a Board member.

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ASIA PROTOCOL FOR AFFILIATION

<p>1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about MCC core values, vision, and mission. • Every aspect of the church’s ministry both inside and outside of the church is compatible with and reflects the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.
<p>2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace UFMCC Bylaws as a covenantal relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and MCC and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by UFMCC. • The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC does not have a bank account, the church’s financial report reflects that the 10% tithe due to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
<p>3- Pastoral leadership that meets the standards established by the UFMCC Bylaws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pastoral leader has been authorized by UFMCC. • The pastoral leader has participated in at least one relevant learning activity during the year prior to applying for affiliation. • If MCC clergy, the pastoral leader maintains a license to practice. • If ordained by another denomination, MCC has approved the pastoral leader’s application for Standing by Call. • If laity, the pastoral leader has successfully completed the MCC L.E.A.D. program or is meeting the leader’s L.E.A.D. Ministry Action Plan. • If seeking ordination by MCC, the pastoral leader is meeting the formation requirements, as indicated in the leader’s Ministry Action Plan. • The pastoral leader has signed the MCC Code of Conduct.
<p>4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in:</p> <p>a. Meeting all other criteria, and</p> <p>b. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with UFMCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has maintained an average worship attendance of at least 25 people during the six months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average worship attendance trend shows an increasing level of attendance during the 12 months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average monthly income has met regular expenses for the six months prior to applying for affiliation.
<p>5- Be able to compensate a pastor, consistent with equitable local standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial report for the six months prior to applying for affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses. • There is a written Covenant between the Pastor and the church that includes a position description and compensation level, and that has been signed by the Pastor and the Board and affirmed by the Office of Emerging Ministries.

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AUSTRALASIA PROTOCOL FOR AFFILIATION

<p>1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about MCC core values, vision, and mission. • Every aspect of the church’s ministry both inside and outside of the church is compatible with and reflects the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.
<p>2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace UFMCC Bylaws as a covenantal relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and MCC and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by UFMCC. • The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC does not have a bank account, the church’s financial report reflects that the 10% tithe due to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
<p>3- Pastoral leadership that meets the standards established by the UFMCC Bylaws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pastoral leader has been authorized by UFMCC. • The pastoral leader has participated in at least one relevant learning activity during the year prior to applying for affiliation. • If MCC clergy, the pastoral leader maintains a license to practice. • If ordained by another denomination, MCC has approved the pastoral leader’s application for Standing by Call. • If laity, the pastoral leader has successfully completed the MCC L.E.A.D. program or is meeting the leader’s L.E.A.D. Ministry Action Plan. • If seeking ordination by MCC, the pastoral leader is meeting the formation requirements, as indicated in the leader’s Ministry Action Plan. • The pastoral leader has signed the MCC Code of Conduct.
<p>4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in:</p> <p>a. Meeting all other criteria, and</p> <p>b. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with UFMCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has maintained an average worship attendance of at least 25 people during the six months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average worship attendance trend shows an increasing level of attendance during the 12 months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average monthly income has exceeded regular expenses for the six months prior to applying for affiliation.
<p>5- Be able to compensate a pastor, consistent with equitable local standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial report for the six months prior to applying for affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses. • There is a written Covenant between the Pastor and the church that includes a position description and compensation level, and that has been signed by the Pastor and the Board and affirmed by the Office of Emerging Ministries.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation actually paid to the pastor for at least the six months prior to applying for affiliation meets or exceeds the compensation amount that is reflected in the Covenant between the Pastor and the Church.
6- Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church follows sound and fiscally responsible procedures for receiving, reserving, disbursing, and reporting on its money. • The church follows appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who participate in church-sponsored activities. • The church has adopted policies and procedures that address such matters as sexual harassment and sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination and exclusion, conflict management, etc. • The church usually gathers in spaces that are structurally sound and meet the local building code. • The church has a written procedure to be followed by the Board when considering allegations of disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty by a church Member or a Board member.

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CANADA PROTOCOL FOR AFFILIATION

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<p>2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace UFMCC Bylaws as a covenantal relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and MCC and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by UFMCC. • The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC does not have a bank account, the church’s financial report reflects that the 10% tithe due to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
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<p>4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. Meeting all other criteria, and</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with UFMCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has maintained an average worship attendance of at least 35 people during the six months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average worship attendance trend shows an increasing level of attendance during the 12 months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average monthly income has exceeded regular expenses for the six months prior to applying for affiliation.
<p>5- Be able to compensate a pastor, consistent with equitable local standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial report for the six months prior to applying for affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a written Covenant between the Pastor and the church that includes a position description and compensation level, and that has been signed by the Pastor and the Board and affirmed by the Office of Emerging Ministries. • Compensation actually paid to the pastor for at least the six months prior to applying for affiliation meets or exceeds the compensation amount that is reflected in the Covenant between the Pastor and the Church.
6- Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church follows sound and fiscally responsible procedures for receiving, reserving, disbursing, and reporting on its money. • The church follows appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who participate in church-sponsored activities. • The church has adopted policies and procedures that address such matters as sexual harassment and sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination and exclusion, conflict management, etc. • The church usually gathers in spaces that are structurally sound and meet the local building code. • The church has a written procedure to be followed by the Board when considering allegations of disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty by a church Member or a Board member.

Applying for Affiliation – To apply for affiliation, the Emerging Church should provide the MCC Office of Emerging Ministries with written evidence that all of the criteria have been met. The application is to be submitted to:

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EUROPE PROTOCOL FOR AFFILIATION

<p>1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about MCC core values, vision, and mission. • Every aspect of the church’s ministry both inside and outside of the church is compatible with and reflects the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.
<p>2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace UFMCC Bylaws as a covenantal relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and MCC and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by UFMCC. • The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC does not have a bank account, the church’s financial report reflects that the 10% tithe due to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
<p>3- Pastoral leadership that meets the standards established by the UFMCC Bylaws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pastoral leader has been authorized by UFMCC. • The pastoral leader has participated in at least one relevant learning activity during the year prior to applying for affiliation. • If MCC clergy, the pastoral leader maintains a license to practice. • If ordained by another denomination, MCC has approved the pastoral leader’s application for Standing by Call. • If laity, the pastoral leader has successfully completed the MCC L.E.A.D. program or is meeting the leader’s L.E.A.D. Ministry Action Plan. • If seeking ordination by MCC, the pastoral leader is meeting the formation requirements, as indicated in the leader’s Ministry Action Plan. • The pastoral leader has signed the MCC Code of Conduct.
<p>4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in:</p> <p>a. Meeting all other criteria, and</p> <p>b. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with UFMCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has maintained an average worship attendance of at least 25 people during the six months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average worship attendance trend shows an increasing level of attendance during the 12 months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average monthly income has exceeded regular expenses for the six months prior to applying for affiliation.
<p>5- Be able to compensate a pastor, consistent with equitable local standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial report for the six months prior to applying for affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses. • There is a written Covenant between the Pastor and the church that includes a position description and compensation level, and that has been signed by the Pastor and the Board and affirmed by the Office of Emerging Ministries.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation actually paid to the pastor for at least the six months prior to applying for affiliation meets or exceeds the compensation amount that is reflected in the Covenant between the Pastor and the Church.
6- Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This criteria does not apply to emerging churches located in countries where incorporation or registration of churches would not be granted to an MCC church or where an attempt to incorporate or register the church with the government could put the members of the church at risk of personal injury or harm.
7- Governance structure that assures accountability to the congregation and to the UFMCC Bylaws.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has an administrative body (Board of Directors, Church Council, Church Committee, etc.) that is elected by and reports to the Members of the church. • The church Bylaws and any other internal governance documents have been approved by UFMCC. • The church conducts an official decision-making meeting of the Members at least once a year.
8- Submission of an annual report to UFMCC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emerging church applying for affiliation has submitted the Annual Report Form for at least the year prior to applying for affiliation. • An affiliated church submits the Annual Report Form each year after affiliation.
9- Submission of local church Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures to the UFMCC, following their approval by the Office of Emerging Ministries.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has submitted the approved Bylaws and other internal governance documents to UFMCC, following adoption by the Members of the church.
10- Maintain minimum standards for risk management, as established by UFMCC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church follows sound and fiscally responsible procedures for receiving, reserving, disbursing, and reporting on its money. • The church follows appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who participate in church-sponsored activities. • The church has adopted policies and procedures that address such matters as sexual harassment and sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination and exclusion, conflict management, etc. • The church usually gathers in spaces that are structurally sound and meet the local building code. • The church has a written procedure to be followed by the Board when considering allegations of disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty by a church Member or a Board member.

Applying for Affiliation – To apply for affiliation, the Emerging Church should provide the MCC Office of Emerging Ministries with written evidence that all of the criteria have been met. The application is to be submitted to:

Rev. Elder Darlene Garner
RevDarleneGarner@MCCchurch.net

LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN PROTOCOL FOR AFFILIATION

<p>1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about MCC core values, vision, and mission. • Every aspect of the church’s ministry both inside and outside of the church is compatible with and reflects the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.
<p>2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace UFMCC Bylaws as a covenantal relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and MCC and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by UFMCC. • The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC does not have a bank account, the church’s financial report reflects that the 10% tithe due to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
<p>3- Pastoral leadership that meets the standards established by the UFMCC Bylaws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pastoral leader has been authorized by UFMCC. • The pastoral leader has participated in at least one relevant learning activity during the year prior to applying for affiliation. • If MCC clergy, the pastoral leader maintains a license to practice. • If ordained by another denomination, MCC has approved the pastoral leader’s application for Standing by Call. • If laity or ordained by another denomination, the pastoral leader is enrolled in or has completed the Darlene Garner Institute for Leadership Formation and/or is meeting the formation requirements, as indicated in the leader’s Ministry Action Plan. • The pastoral leader has signed the MCC Code of Conduct.
<p>4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. Meeting all other criteria, and</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with UFMCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has maintained an average worship attendance of at least 25 people during the six months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average worship attendance trend shows an increasing level of attendance during the 12 months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average monthly income has met regular expenses for the six months prior to applying for affiliation.
<p>5- Be able to compensate a pastor, consistent with equitable local standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial report for the six months prior to applying for affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses. • There is a written Covenant between the Pastor and the church that includes a position description and compensation level, and that has been signed by the Pastor and the Board and affirmed by the Office of Emerging Ministries.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation actually paid to the pastor for at least the six months prior to applying for affiliation meets or exceeds the compensation amount that is reflected in the Covenant between the Pastor and the Church.
6- Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This criteria does not apply to emerging churches located in countries where incorporation or registration of churches would not be granted to an MCC church or where an attempt to incorporate or register the church with the government could put the members of the church at risk of personal injury or harm.
7- Governance structure that assures accountability to the congregation and to the UFMCC Bylaws.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has an administrative body (Board of Directors, Church Council, Church Committee, etc.) that is elected by and reports to the Members of the church. • The church Bylaws and any other internal governance documents have been approved by UFMCC. • The church conducts an official decision-making meeting of the Members at least once a year
8- Submission of an annual report to UFMCC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emerging church applying for affiliation has submitted the Annual Report Form for at least the year prior to applying for affiliation. • An affiliated church submits the Annual Report Form each year after affiliation.
9- Submission of local church Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures to the UFMCC, following their approval by the Office of Emerging Ministries.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has submitted the approved Bylaws and other internal governance documents to UFMCC, following adoption by the Members of the church.
10- Maintain minimum standards for risk management, as established by UFMCC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church follows sound and fiscally responsible procedures for receiving, reserving, disbursing, and reporting on its money. • The church follows appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who participate in church-sponsored activities. • The church has adopted policies and procedures that address such matters as sexual harassment and sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination and exclusion, conflict management, etc. • The church usually gathers in spaces that are structurally sound and meet the local building code. • The church has a written procedure to be followed by the Board when considering allegations of disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty by a church Member or a Board member.

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 RevDarleneGarner@MCCchurch.net

UNITED STATES PROTOCOL FOR AFFILIATION

<p>1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about MCC core values, vision, and mission. • Every aspect of the church’s ministry both inside and outside of the church is compatible with and reflects the UFMCC core values, vision, and mission.
<p>2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace UFMCC Bylaws as a covenantal relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church’s membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and MCC and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by UFMCC. • The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. • In those countries where UFMCC does not have a bank account, the church’s financial report reflects that the 10% tithe due to UFMCC for at least the preceding six months prior to applying for affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
<p>3- Pastoral leadership that meets the standards established by the UFMCC Bylaws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pastoral leader has been authorized by UFMCC. • The pastoral leader has participated in at least one relevant learning activity during the year prior to applying for affiliation. • If MCC clergy, the pastoral leader maintains a license to practice. • If ordained by another denomination, MCC has approved the pastoral leader’s application for Standing by Call. • If laity, the pastoral leader has successfully completed the MCC L.E.A.D. program or is meeting the leader’s L.E.A.D. Ministry Action Plan. • If seeking ordination by MCC, the pastoral leader is meeting the formation requirements, as indicated in the leader’s Ministry Action Plan. • The pastoral leader has signed the MCC Code of Conduct.
<p>4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in:</p> <p>a. Meeting all other criteria, and</p> <p>b. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with UFMCC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has maintained an average worship attendance of at least 35 people during the six months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average worship attendance trend shows an increasing level of attendance during the 12 months prior to applying for affiliation. • The average monthly income has exceeded regular expenses for the six months prior to applying for affiliation.
<p>5- Be able to compensate a pastor, consistent with equitable local standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial report for the six months prior to applying for affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses. • There is a written Covenant between the Pastor and the church that includes a position description and compensation level, and that has been signed by the Pastor and the Board and affirmed by the Office of Emerging Ministries.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensation actually paid to the pastor for at least the six months prior to applying for affiliation meets or exceeds the compensation amount that is reflected in the Covenant between the Pastor and the Church.
6- Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has incorporated with the State government. • The church has been granted an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service.
7- Governance structure that assures accountability to the congregation and to the UFMCC Bylaws.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has an administrative body (Board of Directors, Church Council, Church Committee, etc.) that is elected by and reports to the Members of the church. • The church Bylaws and any other internal governance documents have been approved by UFMCC. • The church conducts an official decision-making meeting of the Members at least once a year.
8- Submission of an annual report to UFMCC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emerging church applying for affiliation has submitted the Annual Report Form for at least the year prior to applying for affiliation. • An affiliated church submits the Annual Report Form each year after affiliation.
9- Submission of local church Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures to the UFMCC, following their approval by the Office of Emerging Ministries.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has submitted the approved Bylaws and other internal governance documents to UFMCC, following adoption by the Members of the church.
10- Maintain minimum standards for risk management, as established by UFMCC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church follows sound and fiscally responsible procedures for receiving, reserving, disbursing, and reporting on its money. • The church follows appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who participate in church-sponsored activities. • The church has adopted policies and procedures that address such matters as sexual harassment and sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination and exclusion, conflict management, etc. • The church usually gathers in spaces that are structurally sound and meet the local building code. • The church has a written procedure to be followed by the Board when considering allegations of disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty by a church Member or a Board member.

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