CRITERIA FOR AFFILIATION OF LOCAL CHURCHES

(As approved by General Conference XX, Toronto 2001 and reflecting changes to UFMCC Bylaws adopted by General Conference XXIV, Acapulco 2010)

In order to gain recognition as a member congregation of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, 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 an Elder.

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 an Elder.

10. Maintain minimum standards for risk management, as established by an Elder.

"Within the UFMCC, all churches that meet the criteria as established by the Council of Elders and approved by the Governing Board qualify for affiliation and recognition as “church.” An Elder has the authority to approve requests for affiliation. If a church ceases to meet the criteria for affiliation, an Elder may take appropriate actions of intervention, which may include removal of the church’s affiliation status. The decision of the Elder may be appealed to the Council of Elders."

Quoted from UFMCC Bylaws, Article V.B.2