

LOCAL MISSION CHURCH REGULATIONS (REGS II 2021)

Edinburgh 26 May 2021, Session 8

The General Assembly hereby enact and ordain:

1. DEFINITIONS

1. In these Regulations:
 - (a) The term “charge” shall have the meaning given to it in the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act ZZ 2021);
 - (b) “Leadership Team” shall mean those persons who have the responsibilities in relation to the Local Mission Church outlined in section 6;
 - (c) “Presbytery” shall mean the presbytery of the bounds within which the Local Mission Church is located.

2. LOCAL MISSION CHURCH

2(1) A Local Mission Church shall be a Christian community whose purpose is to worship, witness and serve in a distinct geographical setting.

2(2) A Local Mission Church shall be established in terms of these Regulations and a Basis of Local Mission Church. The form of the Basis shall be prescribed from time to time by the Faith Nurture Forum after consultation with the Legal Questions Committee.

2(3) A Local Mission Church shall not own any property, heritable or moveable, or have any legal personality. It shall not have a Kirk Session and shall not have the right to call a minister. The creation or sustaining of a Local Mission Church is not dependent on the provision of a church building.

3. CREATION OF A LOCAL MISSION CHURCH

3. The process to create a Local Mission Church shall be as specified in the Guidance accompanying the Presbytery Mission Plan Act.

4. ROLE OF KIRK SESSION OF CHARGE

4. A Local Mission Church shall exist within the territorial boundaries of a charge. All legal and governance matters affecting the Local Mission Church shall be the responsibility of the Kirk Session of the charge. In particular, the Kirk Session shall:

- (a) ensure that all requirements of the law of the Church of Scotland and of civil law are fulfilled in relation to the Local Mission Church;
- (b) be the owner/title-holder of all property whether heritable or moveable, used by or within the possession of the Local Mission Church;

- (c) administer all offerings and other monies collected at or in relation to the Local Mission Church;
- (d) apply such monies in the first instance to meet the costs of the Local Mission Church for as long as it exists, after discussion with the Leadership Team, and thereafter as the Kirk Session determines.

5. OVERSIGHT BY PRESBYTERY

5. A Local Mission Church shall be subject to the oversight of the Presbytery. In particular, a review of a Local Mission Church and its place in the Mission Plan shall be conducted by the Presbytery at least once every five years but without prejudice to annual evaluation and development of the Mission Plan.

6. LEADERSHIP TEAM

6(1) A Local Mission Church shall have a Leadership Team as set out in the Basis and this Team shall include one or more representatives of each of the Kirk Session and the Presbytery.

6(2) The life and witness of the Local Mission Church shall be co-ordinated by its Leadership Team, subject to the oversight of the Kirk Session and the Presbytery. Without prejudice to this generality, the Leadership Team shall be responsible for:

- (a) developing appropriate expressions of worship, witness and service;
- (b) ensuring that the Local Mission Church is adequately organised;
- (c) ensuring good communication with the Kirk Session; and
- (d) assisting with the upkeep of buildings (if any), subject always to strict adherence to sections 7(a) and (b) below. Any contracts shall be entered into by the Kirk Session.

7. FURTHER PROVISIONS

7. The following further provisions shall apply to a Local Mission Church:

- (a) Neither a Leadership Team nor any person acting on behalf of a Local Mission Church shall have any authority or power to enter into contracts or to incur liabilities on behalf of the Kirk Session.
- (b) Neither a Leadership Team nor any person acting on behalf of a Local Mission Church shall conduct themselves in such a way (including silence) that might cause an inference contrary to section 7(a) to be drawn by any person.