

SUBJECT: CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

BY: UK – Great Britain Conference

RELATED TO: Par. 6100

Rating: A

ASSIGNED:

**ACTION: Ministry Committee:
General Conference:**

1 **WHEREAS, a person becomes a member of the Body of Christ when they repent,**
2 **believe and receive the Holy Spirit, and**

3 **WHEREAS, the term “membership” can create confusion between a member of the**
4 **Body of Christ and being a member of the Free Methodist Church, and**

5 **WHEREAS, the term “membership” can give the impression that those who are not**
6 **members do not really belong to the church, and**

7 **WHEREAS, other New Testament terms used to describe someone who is**
8 **committed to the vision and values of a church are partner and partnership (see**
9 **Philippians 1:5), and**

10 **WHEREAS, membership can imply passive belonging and little else, partnership**
11 **includes the idea of active involvement, participation, making an investment and**
12 **taking responsibility,**

13 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

14 **that churches are free to use the terms partner/partnership as alternatives to**
15 **member/membership.**

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

17 **that the following sentence be added at the end of paragraph 6100:**

18 **“We recognize that in some settings the terms member and**
19 **membership are unhelpful and can create confusion. In such**
20 **situations we encourage churches to use the terms partner/partnership**
21 **as alternatives.”**