

SUBJECT: TRUST CLAUSE / AFFILIATED CHURCHES

BY: UK – Great Britain Conference

RELATED TO: Par. 6400 / 6840.C

Rating: A

ASSIGNED:

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

1 **WHEREAS, in the New Testament the word “church” refers to a congregation of**
2 **believers rather than a building, and**

3 **WHEREAS, the Free Methodist Church in the United Kingdom are trusting God to**
4 **enable them to experience significant numerical growth in the next 10 years**
5 **through church planting and the affiliation of existing congregations, and**

6 **WHEREAS, God has already prompted several established congregations in the**
7 **United Kingdom to affiliate with the Free Methodist Church with a view to**
8 **becoming full Free Methodist Societies, and**

9 **WHEREAS, the Trust Clause is often a significant obstacle to those churches who**
10 **already own property moving from affiliation to full Society status, and**

11 **WHEREAS, this same dilemma no doubt exists in other regions of the Free**
12 **Methodist Church of North America, and**

13 **WHEREAS, some churches who join by affiliation recognize that the trust clause**
14 **offers them protection from a hostile take over by a power group that is out of**
15 **harmony with the doctrine or polity of the Free Methodist Church,**

16 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

17 **that Paragraph 6400.A include the provision that:**

18 **Those churches who hold property at the time they join the Free**

19 **Methodist Church be given the option whether or not to adopt the**

20 **Trust Clause for their existing property.**

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

22 **that Paragraph 6840.C.1 be amended accordingly.**