

SUBJECT: PROPERTY HELD IN TRUST

BY: UK – Great Britain Conference

RELATED TO: Par. 6400

Rating: A

ASSIGNED:

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

1 **WHEREAS, a primary reason for the trust clause is to protect the local church from**
2 **adverse actions such as a hostile take over by a power group that is out of**
3 **harmony with the doctrine or polity of the Free Methodist Church, and**

4 **WHEREAS, in practice the Trust Clause ensures that leaders of a local church**
5 **benefit from taking advice and gaining approval from the wider Church before**
6 **selling an asset or going into debt, and**

7 **WHEREAS, it is clear that the way Conference Superintendents and Directors of**
8 **the Free Methodist Church in North America function is typically helpful and**
9 **supportive, and**

10 **WHEREAS, when the Free Methodist Church in England was established in 1971,**
11 **the Directors of the Free Methodist Church of North America gave a written**
12 **undertaking that if the Free Methodist Church of North America moved away from**
13 **its historical Biblical position the Trust Clause would be null and void so far as the**
14 **United Kingdom is concerned, and**

15 **WHEREAS, the way paragraph 6400 reads gives the impression that the Movement**
16 **wants to control the local church rather than advise and assist the local church in**
17 **its stewardship of property and assets,**

18 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

19 **that Paragraph 6400 Property and Finance be reviewed and reworded to**
20 **emphasize the way Conference leaders and denominational Directors actually**
21 **function and that a primary purpose for the trust clause is to offer protection**
22 **to the local church.**