

PROCEDURE 16: DISSOCIATION AND SEVERANCE OF A LOCAL CHURCH

- 16.1 A minister appointed by the Regional Council within whose bounds the local church concerned falls, presides at all special church meetings called for the purpose of considering and/or effecting severance.
- 16.2 A special church meeting is convened to discuss the proposed severance, of which meeting not less than 90 days written notice is given to the members of the local church, the Regional Council and the General Secretary of the Church. Such notice has to state full reasons for the proposed severance.
- 16.3 If three-quarters of the members present and entitled to vote at the said meeting indicate by vote that they wish further consideration to be given to the proposed severance, a second special church meeting is called at which a vote will be taken on the proposal to sever.
- 16.4 If three-quarters of those present and entitled to vote, vote in favour of severance, a notice of motion to amend the constitution of the church in such a manner that the local church ceases to be a constituent church of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa must be given. Such notice of motion is then discussed at the following special church meeting.
- 16.5 A third special church meeting is then called at which a vote is taken on the proposed amendments to the constitution of the local church concerned. A two-thirds majority vote of members present and entitled to vote at the meeting is necessary to approve the amendments which effects severance from the Church.
- 16.6 The Church is entitled to send not more than three representatives to all three special church meetings with the full power to participate but without the right to vote.
- 16.7 The local church ceasing to be a constituent church of the Church is entitled to retain ownership of all its assets provided that:
 - 16.7.1 it repays forthwith all outstanding loans which may have been made to it by the Church or any of its agencies;
 - 16.7.2 it forthwith refunds all grants received by it from the Church or any of its agencies for any purpose during five years preceding the date of severance.