

PROCEDURE 18: FORMATION OF NEW LOCAL CHURCHES

- 18.1 The Regional Council/Synod has the responsibility for ensuring that a pastoral ministry is available in every new residential area established within its bounds.
- 18.2 Any new local church, at the time of its formation is constituted as Church Extension Charges as a first step towards admission to full status as a constituent local church of the UCCSA.
- 18.3 The parent church may apply to the Regional Council in the first instance for recognition of an outstation, capable of assuming a greater responsibility for its own affairs, as a Church Extension Charge.
- 18.4 The Regional Council, after consideration, makes a recommendation to Synod.
- 18.5 In the event that the consent of the Local Church for an outstation to become a Church Extension Charge is consistently withheld without just cause, the Regional Council determines whether or not an out-station of a local church is capable of assuming a greater responsibility for its own affairs and thus qualifies for Church Extension Charge status and makes an appropriate recommendation to the Synod.
- 18.6 Assembly grants recognition as a Church Extension Charge on the recommendation of the Synod.
- 18.7 The Ministerial Committee appoints a minister to a church Extension Charge after the approval of such appointment by the appropriate Regional Council.
- 18.8 A Church Extension Charge operates as a local church and has representation on the Regional Council.
- 18.9 When a Church Extension Charge desires full status as a Constituent Church it makes application through the Regional Council to the Synod and Synod makes a recommendation to the Assembly. Such application must indicate:-
 - 18.9.1 That the membership is large enough to warrant admission to full status;
 - 18.9.2 That buildings are available for worship and that the charge is not in debt beyond its capacity to repay;
 - 18.9.3 That the charge is financially viable. A full financial statement for the past year and a budget for the ensuing year must accompany the application.