



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Commission
PO Box 211
Bootle
L20 7YX

Your ref:
Our ref: C-529990-M2D3

Date: 13 April 2021

To whom it may concern

Excepted Methodist church charities in England and Wales

The Charity Commission is the government body which registers and regulates charities in England & Wales.

Under the Charities (Exception from Registration) Regulations 1996, certain charities - including certain church charities - are 'excepted' from registration with the Charity Commission if they have an annual income of under £100,000/year. This exception for specific church charities is due to last until 31 March 2031, when they will be required to register.

More information about what excepted charities are – and which church charities are excepted - can be seen here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/excepted-charities/excepted-charities--2>

Excepted charities do not have to register with the Charity Commission or submit annual returns. However, they are otherwise exactly the same as registered charities and are:

- subject to the requirements of charity law in England & Wales
- subject to our jurisdiction as regulator of charities in England & Wales
- able to register with HMRC for recognition as a charity for tax purposes

Methodist churches in England & Wales which are held on the model trusts set out in Schedule 2 to the Methodist Church Act 1976 are 'excepted' charities unless they have an income of over £100,000 a year.

As excepted charities, they cannot currently apply to us to register as a charity and therefore cannot obtain a registered charity number. In future, it may be possible to

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t: 0300 066 9197 (General enquiries)

w: www.gov.uk/charity-commission

apply to register on a voluntary basis. However, the Commission is not ready to accept voluntary registrations yet; it will publish more information about this when it has made the necessary arrangements.

Please note that an individual Methodist church charity also cannot use the charity number of another linked body which is registered with the Charity Commission (such as the central umbrella body 'Methodist Church in Great Britain' (1132208)). The two would be legally separate and distinct charitable entities.

Any application for services by an excepted Methodist church charity in England and Wales should not therefore require the provision of a registered charity number as:

- it is not currently possible for them to obtain one; and
- (as described above) the lack of a registered charity number does not affect their status as charities in any way.

I would be grateful if you would consider this when assessing any such application.

Yours sincerely



Nick Donaldson

Head of Faith Charities Engagement
Charity Commission for England & Wales