

Version	Issue	YYMMDD	Author / Contributor	Details / Changes / Approval for Issue
1		20210125	ARM	first draft
1.1		20210126	GJW Edit	
2		20210127	inc GJW's suggestions	

## Local Mission Church

### Additional Guidelines

1. In general, Local Mission Church regulations should be used with an existing congregation to allow it to continue in a new way, without the need to find all the office-bearers which a congregation requires while keeping the presence and identity of that worshipping community to be honoured and continued. That said, the Faith Nurture Forum, together with the General Trustees, is committed to supporting a reduction in the number of buildings across the Church of Scotland so this should not be a means to keep a building open – it is about the life of a small Christian community. Where a new initiative in Mission is intended, Presbyteries and congregations should explore the use of the Presbytery Mission Initiative Act of 2015. ([here](#))
2. The draft basis of Local Mission Church currently being developed allows for the possibility of the name of the predecessor congregation to be continued, affirming that ongoing sense of identity. If a new name would be helpful this is also possible.
3. Local Mission Church frees the former congregation from the requirements to continue as a separate legal entity, which linkage or guardianship requires, and from the need to identify those who would serve as Session Clerk, Treasurer, Safeguarding Convener and in other roles. It does not require the services of an Interim Moderator as Guardianship does while offering a more distinctive sense of still having some kind of profile and identity which might be lost in a more traditional union.
4. The Leadership Group identified in the Regulations should aspire to work in a collegiate manner; a Convener could be appointed on an annual basis by the Leadership Group. the approach to Presbytery involvement in the Leadership Group should be worked through carefully but can be changed and developed as time goes on. The Leadership Team should meet with the Kirk Session or Kirk Session representatives at least once a year.
5. Presbyteries would also need to make special provision for oversight of Local Mission Churches and their Leadership Groups in Local Church Review processes.

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January 27, 2022