



## GREATER MANCHESTER CHURCHES TOGETHER

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### **Memorandum on Membership of Churches Together in Greater Manchester and Locally EASTER 2009**

Greater Manchester Churches Together is the Intermediate Body set up by its member denominations and its ecumenical partners to facilitate common witness, the search for Christian Unity and better cooperation. It succeeds the work of the Greater Manchester Ecumenical Council Manchester and prior to that, the Manchester and District Council of Churches. Ecumenical working has been a feature of church life since at least 1917 across Greater Manchester and many denominations began to work together locally before they joined the then British Council of Churches. Many Councils of Churches across the county met on a Borough-wide basis.

After 1990, the British Council of Churches set up national bodies for the four nations, - CTBI. GMCT is affiliated to, but not governed by, Churches Together in England. The following churches are full members of Greater Manchester Churches Together and they jointly employ me as full time County Ecumenical Development Officer, with part time administrative support, and a part time Further Education Chaplaincy Development Officer.

Any denomination in membership of Churches Together in England would automatically be admitted on application to Greater Manchester Churches Together and as the following list indicates who they are at the end of February 2009.

#### **LIST OF GMCT PARTNER CHURCHES**

The Baptist Church (North West Association)

The Church of England – Diocese of Chester  
and Diocese of Manchester

Church of God of Prophecy

Congregationalist Church (North West  
Congregational Federation)

The Methodist Church –(Bolton and Rochdale  
District, Manchester and Stockport District)

The Moravian Church (Lancashire Synod)

The Orthodox Church (including the Coptic  
Orthodox, Antiochene, Russian, Greek,

Slavonic, Byelorussian, Armenian Apostolic  
and Ukrainian, Syrian traditions)

Redeemed Christian Church of God (Parishes  
across Greater Manchester)

The Roman Catholic Church – Diocese of  
Salford, Diocese of Shrewsbury

The Salvation Army (Lancashire Territory)

The Religious Society of Friends (Meetings  
across Greater Manchester)

The United Reformed Church (North West  
Synod)

#### **Local Churches Together Groups**

There are over 100 local Churches Together Groups across the neighbourhoods of Greater Manchester. They are all affiliated to Greater Manchester Churches Together and received GMCT advice and support. These can consist of two or three denominations seeking to work together or sometimes 20 or more. Any local church, even if they are not nationally affiliated or members of GMCT at an intermediate level can still join a local Churches Together Group, if they accept the basis

of Membership and the Local Churches Together group are happy to welcome them. (In the case of individual Churches Together Groups the GMCT office hopes to have an up-to-date list of the currently membership of each local CT but this will not always be the case).

**The Basis for Membership of Churches Together, in England, in Greater Manchester, and locally**

The Basis and contained in the constitution of every Churches Together Group is the same namely:- *‘Churches Together in ..... unites in pilgrimage those churches in ..... which, acknowledging God’s revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and, in obedience to God’s will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves: to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is His Body; and – to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world – to the Glory of the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.’*

**Black and Minority Ethnic Christian Communities**

Many Black and Ethnic minority churches are part of national denominations affiliated to CTE and have sought membership with GMCT. There are other BME Churches which are more regional or local and therefore are not currently members of CTE or the Free Churches Group. Nonetheless all the following listed churches are committed to working ecumenically, regionally and locally and are members of two ‘umbrella bodies’ for Pentecostal and other churches. Within these Associations they receive fellowship, with the possibilities of training, and where requested, Licensing and Ordination. Member churches in BMECA as listed below are all committed to working with GMCT and BMECA is a Body in Association with GMCT represented on its Governing Body and its Church Leaders meeting and GMCT seeks to work ever closer with these churches, not least, because of their presence and activity in ecumenical work. Members of the Apostolic Pastoral Association may also be members of BMECA but there are others who are not and GMCT will welcome APA as a Body in Association in 2009. There are also whole list of churches and congregations who the Ecumenical Officer is in contact with, in some cases alongside the International Chaplain to the University, whom GMCT believe should be taken seriously as authentic local churches and will work locally and have fellowship.

No list of churches locally will ever be totally up-to-date and in the current ‘global village’ that we live in, new churches are likely to appear. We can only list those who have made contact with us or our associated bodies. We also rely on local clergy, ministers and pastors to inform us who they are working with. There are numerous French-speaking African congregations, particularly in the Boroughs of Salford and Bolton whose details we are currently seeking.

A Brazilian Pentecostal Congregation has recently bought a former U.R.C. Church in Hulme, for example.

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**For the Purposes of Recommendation for admission to some Church Schools**

The following advice is given by GMCT after consultation and on the advice of the Diocesan authorities. I would naturally expect the children of members of any of the churches affiliated to GMCT or CTE and the Free Church Group to be considered as our equal partners without question. Similarly members of our Bodies in Association namely BMECA and APA are affiliated to GMCT and therefore could be considered Associate Members. All the churches in the final category are obviously active churches that the main stream and historic denominations are in contact with and working alongside. Many are members of local Churches Together Groups. Many of these churches are ‘not new arrivals’ and many have been established in their countries of origin for a long time. We therefore hope that schools will consider them as seriously as anybody else. This, of course, is a

matter to the Governing Bodies but we are happy to advise – and do get our opinion especially if the Church sounds unfamiliar.

If school authorities are in any doubt about the ‘legitimacy’ of a church, which a parent or child says they are a member of, you are advised to ring this office. We will initially refer to this list which we are offering to you!

Some local Pentecostal and other churches may be members of a Churches Together Group or may work with individuals or part of the membership of that CT which we may not always be informed about. Similarly, many local church members may not know that their church is a member or that their pastor works with other pastors in the neighbourhood. GMCT naturally believes that any committed parent’s children should be seriously considered for a place in a church school should they request it, and we believe it would be of benefit to the school to have a student population made up of the wonderful diversity of Christianity across Greater Manchester.

We hope that schools will contact us about any queries a long time before applications become contested by parents and that of course parents should be aware of this list, if you so desire. GMCT can find itself in a difficult situation when it is asked to deal with an appeal where both the school and the parents are expecting us to make a judgement. This is even more difficult for the Appeal Bodies who do not have this list and may not understand all the nuances. We are happy to supply this list to those who may request it. As you will see this list does not give details of the Pastors names and the addresses and other information of these churches but we do have it on file.

GMCT hopes that this Membership Memorandum indicates this wide variety and rich blessing which the fellowship of churches is able to bring across Greater Manchester



**The Rev Graham R Kent – Ecumenical Development Officer**  
**For Greater Manchester Churches Together (GMCT)**

### **LIST OF CHURCHES**

#### **Churches Together in England List of Members** **at February 2009**

Antiochene Orthodox Church  
Baptist Union of Great Britain  
Cherubim & Seraphim Council of Churches  
Church of England  
Church of God of Prophecy  
Church of Scotland (in England)  
Congregational Federation  
Coptic Orthodox Church  
Council of African & Afro-Caribbean Churches  
Council of Oriental Orthodox Christian  
Churches  
Evangelische Synode Deutscher Sprache in  
Großbritannien  
Ichthus Christian Fellowship

Independent Methodist Churches  
International Ministerial Council of Great Britain  
Joint Council for Anglo-Caribbean Churches  
Lutheran Council of Great Britain  
Methodist Church  
Moravian Church  
New Testament Assembly  
New Testament Church of God  
Oecumenical Patriarchate Archdiocese of  
Thyateira and Great Britain  
Redeemed Christian Church of God  
Religious Society of Friends  
Roman Catholic Church  
Russian Orthodox Church  
Salvation Army  
Trans Atlantic and Pacific Alliance of Churches

United Reformed Church  
Wesleyan Holiness Church

**OBSERVER**

Seventh Day Adventist Church

**GRANTED MEMBERSHIP IN 2008**

Mar Thoma Syrian Church

**ENGLAND-BASED CHURCHES BELONGING TO  
THE FREE CHURCHES GROUP AND NOT  
CURRENTLY TO CHURCHES TOGETHER IN  
ENGLAND**

Assemblies of God and Elim Pentecostal  
Churches in Communities International  
Calvary International Church  
Church of the Nazarene  
Churches in Communities International  
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion  
Fellowship of Churches of Christ  
Free Church of England  
Free Methodist Church  
Old Baptist Union  
Sanctus1 and Nexus (Church of England and  
Methodist new congregations)  
Wesleyan Reform Union

**Other Churches In England**

CTE strives to forge links with other Churches  
which are currently not part of the national  
ecumenical bodies; and often those Churches are  
represented on Co-ordinating Groups which plan  
the Churches' collaborative work.

CTE values its relationship with the Evangelical  
Alliance, the African and Caribbean Evangelical  
Alliance and the Alliance of Asian Christians

**BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC CHRISTIANS**

African Methodist Episcopal Zion  
Apostolic Pastoral Association  
Arise and Shine Christian Ministries  
Bethany Family Worship Centre  
Calvary International Church  
Church of God of Prophecy  
Command Prayer Ministry International  
Elim Four Square Church  
Estmos Associates Ministries  
Eternal Glory Ministries International  
Godrey Ofori Att Ministries  
Good News Assembly  
Grace Assembly of Prayer  
Grace Community Church

House of Prayer Ministries  
Jehovah Mission Ministry  
Lifeboat Ministries  
Mer Christ Association  
Manchester Christian Assembly  
Manchester City Chapel  
New and Living Way Church  
New Bible International Church  
New Covenant Church  
New Creation Bible Church  
Refiner's Christian Ministry  
Strong Tower International Reconciliation Minst.  
Third Heaven Ministry  
Tsaboath Freedom Centre  
Way of life Ministries  
Windsor Church  
World Harvest International Church

**APOSTOLIC PASTORAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT  
BRITAIN (A.P.A.)**

Arise and Shine Christian Ministries  
Body of Christ International Ministries  
Christ Present Help Sanctuary  
Christ Temple Community Church  
Christian Way of Life Church  
Church of God of Prophecy  
City Wide Family of God Church  
Command Prayer Centre Ministries  
Command Prayer Ministry International  
Dominion Worship Centre  
Estmos Associates Ministries  
Eternal Glories Ministries International  
Grace Assembly of Prayer  
Grace Community Church  
Harvest Chapel International  
Harvest International Ministries  
His Divine Power International Christian Centre  
Jehovah Nisi  
Life Boat Ministries  
Life Changing International Ministry  
Manchester Christian Assembly  
Mer Christ Association  
Mount Calvary House of Prayer  
Restoration Shekinah Ministries  
Revelation Church of God International Ministries  
Temple of Praise Ministries UK  
The Present Help Sanctuary of God (TPHSG)  
Way of Life Churches

**CONGREGATIONS THAT CEO IS IN CONTACT WITH**

**(Ecumenical Officer meets and worships with some pastors with the International Chaplain to the University)**

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
Agape Ethio-Eritrean Church  
Arabic Assembly of God Church  
Bethany Family Worship Centre  
Bethsdan International Church  
Chorlton Evangelical Church  
City Church Manchester  
City Wide Family of God Church  
Cromwell Hall Christian Centre  
Deeper Life Bible Church  
Dominion Worship Centre  
Elim Four Square Gospel Church  
Forward in Faith  
Godfrey Ofori Atta Ministries International  
His Divine Power International Christian Centre  
Hope City Church  
House of Prayer Ministries  
Igreja Presbiteriana Renovada (Reformed Presbyterian Church)  
Ivy Cottage Church  
King's Church Greater Manchester  
Korean Grace Church  
Manchester Alliance Church (Chinese Congregation)  
Manchester Alliance Mandarin Fellowship  
Manchester Chinese Christian Church  
Manchester Korean Church

Manchester Malayalam Christian Church  
Manchester Vineyard  
New Apostolic Church  
Refiners Christian Ministry  
Sharon Full Gospel Church  
South Manchester Christian Fellowship  
South Manchester Family Church  
Strongtower International Reconciliation Ministries  
The Lighthouse Christian Centre  
The Potter's House Church  
Third Heaven Ministries  
Union Hall Evangelical Church  
Victoria Park Fellowship  
Victory Outreach Manchester  
Windsor Church  
World Harvest International Church  
United Church of God  
United Pentecostal Church  
Bethel United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic)  
Bethel Apostolic Ark  
Calvary Church of God in Christ  
Building of the Temple (Ecclesia of God)  
Latter Rain Outpouring Revival Church  
International City Mission  
New Way Pentecostal Fellowship  
Faith Restoration Outreach Ministry  
Living Waters Church International

**Many of these are co-operating and collaborating locally with other churches.**