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) Slavonic, Byelorussian, Armenian Apostolic
The Church of England – Diocese of Chester and Ukrainian, Syrian traditions) Redeemed Christian Church of God (Parishes
and Diocese of Manchester across Greater Manchester)
Church of God of Prophecy The Roman Catholic Church – Diocese of
Congregationalist Church (North West Salford, Diocese of Shrewsbury
Congregational Federation) The Salvation Army (Lancashire Territory)
The Methodist Church –(Bolton and Rochdale The Religious Society of Friends (Meetings
District, Manchester and Stockport District) across Greater Manchester)
The Moravian Church (Lancashire Synod) The United Reformed Church (North West
The Orthodox Church (including the Coptic Synod)
Orthodox, Antiochene, Russian, Greek,

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.

………………………………………………………………………………………………

**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

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Graham R Kent

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
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.