

PROTOCOLS FOR APPLYING TO BE A FAITH COMMUNITY

Pastoral Relations 2013

The regulations regarding Faith Communities are listed below.

- 3.9.2** (a) A Presbytery may recognise as a Faith Community a grouping of people who;
- (i) are seeking to explore the implications of faith in God, gathering in order to serve the community and/or nurturing one another in faith; or
 - (ii) are worshiping together and seeking to relate to the Church for nurture and support, and
 - (iii) apply to the Presbytery to be recognised as a Faith Community.
- (b) A Faith Community may include confirmed members of the Church who hold their membership in a Congregation or who have their membership recorded with the Presbytery.
- (c) A Faith Community will order its life, under the oversight of the Presbytery, so as to encourage its participants, develop its mission, and be accountable for its resources, and may seek the guidance of a Presbytery about possible ways to do so.
- (d) A Faith Community may appoint leaders from its participants and may designate a participant to attend meetings of the Presbytery.
- (e) A Faith Community may apply to Presbytery to be recognised as a Congregation. A Presbytery may request a Faith Community to make such an application.
- (f) A Presbytery may cease to recognise a Faith Community.

Steps to Being Recognised

1. A grouping of people seeking to be recognised as a Faith Community will write to the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee making this request. Included in the letter will be:
 - a. Reasons for the request
 - b. A stated willingness to work within the polity and ethos of the UCA
 - c. A brief history of the group
 - d. Any supporting material about the mission, vision and values of the group. These may include statements of purpose, behavioural covenants.
 - e. An explanation regarding the financial arrangements for the group. Where appropriate this will include budget and financial statement.
2. The PRC will appoint people to liaise with group to accompany them through the recognition process and to maintain regular contact with the faith community.
3. The liaison people will bring a report back to PRC who will then make recommendations to the Presbytery Standing Committee.
4. The requesting group may be invited to make a presentation to PRC and/or the Standing Committee as part of this process.
5. Presbytery Standing Committee makes the determination. The PRC will have pastoral oversight of the Faith Community.