



The
United
Reformed
Church

Help and Advice Group

Northern Synod Office, 4 College Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8JJ (0191-232 1168)

Bulletin 33: CHARITY REGISTRATION

The Help & Advice Group was set up by Synod in 2009, to support local churches in being informed and effective in their life and mission. The Group is made up of four members of local churches, together with administrative support from the Trust Officer. We are willing to try to provide specific advice or organise training days on particular topics. Please get in touch if you have questions or wish to suggest a training or discussion event.

This article is part of a series giving an overview of particular subjects of interest for local churches. We also circulate general updates from time to time. Bulletins will also be posted on the members' area of the website with direct links to other websites.

Where readers are directed to web-based resources, the Synod Office is willing to respond to reasonable requests for printed out information for readers without web access, although they may find it more satisfactory to follow up their interest through their local library's web access.

Charity Registration

As noted in bulletins 16 and 21, churches with gross annual income over £100,000 should register with the Charity Commission. The majority of churches remain excepted charities under the Charities (Exception from Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, so are not required to have a registered charity number until 31 March 2021. It is expected that medium-sized churches will be required to register after that time, although the Commission may possibly encourage voluntary registration in phases during the next 7 years.

In the meantime, when asked for a charity number, churches should explain that they have charity status but are not required to have a number, by the Charities (Exception from Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

Guidance on registration was previously published by the United Reformed Church at www.urc.org.uk/what_we_do/resources/docs/charity_registration_for_local_churches.pdf. It is not yet known whether this will be updated. Charity Commission guidance can be found at: www.charitycommission.gov.uk/start-up-a-charity/registering-your-charity.

andrew.atkinson@urc-northernsynod.org