

CHURCHES AS CHARITIES – UPDATE JULY 2012

The Charities Act 2006 required that a review of the Act be undertaken to assess its effect and suitability for purpose. In recent months Lord Hodgson has been undertaking that review and it has now been completed.

The aspect of the review that has most relevance to our family of churches is that Lord Hodgson is recommending to Parliament that the annual income threshold for compulsory registration of churches with the Charity Commission be reduced from £100,000 to £50,000 and then, three years later, to £25,000.

We stress that this is only his recommendation. Parliament may have other ideas, but given that this recommendation is moving in the general direction in which the Government wishes to go, it is more likely than not that it will be accepted. We cannot say when Parliament will consider this matter, but the ball is now in their court.

Again, we stress that this is only Lord Hodgson's recommendation but churches whose annual income is in excess of £50,000 should now ensure that this matter is high on their agendas and that they are ready for the process of registration.

The Grace Baptist Trust Corporation has produced a considerable amount of information to guide churches through this process, and is willing to give churches whatever assistance they require. In the first instance churches should refer to the guidance notes on our [website](#) to familiarise themselves with the issues.

Churches without internet access may obtain an information pack from the office. As all applications for registration must be completed online, this will cause those churches some difficulty but the Corporation is willing to provide such churches with all the assistance they may need.

We are pleased to say that we have already been able to assist a number of churches to register as charities and, generally, it has been plain sailing. So church officers should not feel alarmed about this process but should ensure that they are ready for the process of registration. Reference to the information on our Website or in our information pack is a useful first step and we will continue to keep you informed as further information becomes available.

FS\CACU\07\12

Disclaimer: *This Fact Sheet has been prepared carefully from the information available; however GBTC accepts no responsibility for its complete accuracy, and would encourage the consultation of professional advisors. All rights to the resource material are reserved. The material is not to be published in other media or mirrored on websites without written permission.*