



**PROCESS FOR GRANTING RECOGNITION TO ALIGNED ORGANIZATIONS
(As approved by the Council of Elders, September 2013)**

Aligned non-governmental organizations are those organizations that support the goals of UFMCC and that are aligned with the work of UFMCC yet do not seek to become an affiliated church or associated organization. Individuals from aligned non-governmental organizations may participate in all activities of UFMCC.

1. *RECOGNITION: The Council of Elders shall establish the process for granting recognition to Aligned Organizations.*
2. *OFFICIAL OBSERVER: Each aligned organization may designate a representative to serve as an Official Observer at General Conference, with voice but not vote.*
(from the UFMCC Bylaws, as of July 2013)

Criteria

In order to gain recognition as an Aligned Organization of MCC, over a period of at least twelve months the potential organization must have:

1. Consistently demonstrated respect for the MCC values, vision, and movement.
2. Demonstrated willingness to engage collaboratively with MCC congregations, clergy, and leadership.
3. Participated in at least one (1) opportunity to support the MCC movement by making financial or in-kind contribution(s).
4. Expressed willingness and desire to be publicly identified as an Aligned Organization of MCC.

Discernment Process

1. The process of discerning whether to grant recognition to Aligned Organizations is overseen by the Office of Emerging Ministries (OEM).
2. A request to enter into discernment can be initiated either by MCC or by the potential Aligned Organization and should be submitted to the Director of the Office of Emerging Ministries (OEM).
3. The Director of OEM will consult with the Office of the Moderator throughout the discernment process.

Step 1: Pray. The starting point of discernment is prayer. MCC and the potential Aligned Organization, whether secular or faith-based, must agree to surround themselves throughout the process in contemplative and active expressions of deep listening, self-reflection, and

mutual discovery. The key question to be discerned is, *Does the potential Aligned Organization support the goals of UFMCC and is it aligned with the work of UFMCC?*

Step 2: Designate a two-person team to guide the process through completion. The Director of OEM and an official of the potential Aligned Organization each will designate a representative who will work together, in consultation with the Director of OEM, to manage the discernment process and to design the specific activities to be undertaken at each Step.

Step 3: Introduce MCC to the potential Aligned Organization. This step can be done concurrently with Step 4.

Step 4: Introduce the potential Aligned Organization to MCC. This step can be done concurrently with Step 3.

Step 5: Prepare a recommendation for alignment. The two-person team will jointly prepare and submit to the Director of OEM a joint written recommendation for consideration by the Council of Elders. The recommendation will address the following:

- A. The ways in which, over a period of at least twelve (12) months, the potential Aligned Organization has:
 - 1) Consistently demonstrated respect for the MCC values, vision, and movement.
 - 2) Demonstrated willingness to engage collaboratively with MCC congregations, clergy, and leadership.
 - 3) Participated in at least one (1) opportunity to contribute financially to the MCC movement.
 - 4) Expressed willingness and desire to be publicly identified as an Aligned Organization of MCC.
- B. The ways in which the purpose and activities of the potential Aligned Organization are compatible with and in alignment with the goals and work of MCC.
- C. Any particular proposed or already agreed upon areas of collaboration and cooperation between MCC and the potential Aligned Organization.

Step 6: The Council of Elders considers the recommendation and decides whether to grant recognition to the potential Aligned Organization, subject to affirmation by the Governing Board.

- A. If recognition is not granted, the Director of OEM will share the areas of concern with the two-person team and propose a plan and timeline for addressing the concern(s).
- B. If recognition is granted, the Moderator will present the decision of the Council of Elders to the Governing Board for affirmation.
- C. If the decision is not affirmed, the Moderator will share the Governing Board's areas of concern with the Director of OEM, who will share the areas of concern with the two-person team and propose a plan and timeline for addressing the concern(s).
- D. If the decision is affirmed, the Moderator will inform the Director of OEM who will then work with the team to determine the most appropriate means by which the new relationship will be announced to and celebrated by MCC and the Aligned Organization.

Benefits of Alignment

- The Aligned Organization:
 - May use the MCC logo and identify itself publicly as being an Aligned Organization of the global MCC movement.
 - Has its logo and organizational description included on the MCC website.
 - Is included in the Global Directory of MCC Ministry.
 - Is invited to endorse MCC public policy statements.
 - May access the MCC communication system to communicate about its organization.
 - May choose an organizational representative to serve as an Official Observer (voice only) at the MCC General Conference business meetings.
 - May access consulting services and other resources offered by MCC.
 - May suggest specific opportunities for collaboration with MCC.

- Individual members of an Aligned Organization:
 - May participate in MCC events, including but not limited to webinars, gatherings, trainings, and General Conference.
 - Qualify to receive the Member rate when registering for all MCC events (a 25% savings).
 - May subscribe to any MCC e-letters.
 - Subscribers receive MCC press releases, annual reports, and invitations to events, including MCC happenings in the subscriber's geographical area.
 - May connect to like-minded people through multiple MCC social media outlets.