

**STEWARDS TRUST OF NEW ZEALAND
INCORPORATED**

(Registered Charity CC10270)

www.stewards.org.nz

Secretary:

David Burt B.A., LL.M., B.D., M.C.S.
3A Taitokerau Way
St Johns, Auckland 1072

Treasurer:

Steven Duxfield CA, ACIS
PO Box 301643
Albany, Auckland 0752

Charities Act Registration - Update

1. There is no umbrella registration with the Charities Commission by Stewards' Trust on behalf of all Brethren Assemblies. Assemblies who wish to register need to do so individually.
2. In response to the pilot application which was lodged, the Commission does not require the presentation of a written Constitution, as long as the Assembly confirms by letter that it accepts the Governance Statement which has been prepared by Stewards' Trust. This is a general statement of how a Brethren Assembly operates. A copy of the Governance Statement appears on the website: www.stewards.org.nz. The Statement of Doctrines and Practices referred to is a copy of the Schedule forming part of the Property Trust Deed applying to all properties vested in Stewards' Trust. What is required is that the church identifies itself as an Open Brethren, or Christian Brethren Assembly, and, as stated above, accepts the Governance Statement. A copy of that Statement, together with its Schedule, needs to be presented with the Application for Registration. The letter then needs to ask for exemption from the requirement of Section 17 (c) of the Charities Act as to providing a copy of the church's Rules.

An Assembly which follows this system will receive automatic approval as a charitable entity.

3. If the Assembly already has a written Constitution, it will not require this exemption. The document may, however, need to be checked to make sure it complies with current requirements.
4. Detailed guidance on how to complete the Application forms, and how to frame a covering letter, can be obtained from us.

David Burt
Secretary, Stewards' Trust
1 June 2011