

CHRISTIAN MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us (Ps. 90:17).

CONSTITUTION

(This revision: 15th June 2010)

Article One: Name

The name of this association shall be “**Christian Ministerial Fellowship International**” (CMFI)

Article Two: Purpose

To advance the Christian Faith.

In furtherance of the above object the association shall have the following powers:-

1. To establish a fellowship for the furtherance and propagation and practice of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through associated Biblical churches and ministries (see Article 5.3).
2. To ordain Christian ministers, and to furnish ministerial credentials.
3. To offer support to members in their pastoral roles.
4. To provide fellowship and accountability for the benefit of the members and associate members.

Article Three: Government

Council of Elders:

1. The management of the Fellowship shall be vested in a Council of Elders consisting of not less than 3 members and not more than 7 members including the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

2. The founding members of the Council are: John Angliss, John Burston, Tom Chacko, Paul Sherbird.
3. Vacancies in or additional members of the Council shall be filled or appointed by resolution of the Council.
4. Maintaining the unity of the Spirit in accordance with scriptural principle is always the aim in decision making but where a decision is required and unity cannot be achieved then the matter will be put to a vote and the proposal carried by simple majority.
5. Any changes to the Constitution, the Statement of Faith, appointment or reappointment of members (on moral or doctrinal grounds) or changes to the Council of Elders (including the addition or removal of Council Members) shall be by a two thirds majority vote of the Council of Elders.

The Council of Elders shall constitute the official Council

1. They shall be the trustees of the association and as such shall be empowered to act on behalf of the association in all matters involving the purchase, sale, or transfer of property belonging to the association.
2. The trustees shall have full power to mortgage or charge by way of security any payment of money borrowed.
3. The Council of Elders will help direct ministerial affairs and will deal with all aspects of ordination.

Article Four; Officers

1. Chairman who shall chair all business and general meetings and be a member of all committees and departments. Only a current member of the Council of Elders shall be eligible to hold the office of Chairman. Upon any Chairman ceasing to be a member of the

Council of Elders his office as Chairman shall terminate with immediate effect.

2. Secretary

Duties:

1. To provide for an accurate record of all Annual and business meetings of the association.
2. To receive applications for membership, and upon acceptance furnish credentials.

3. Treasurer

Duties:

1. To provide for accurate financial records.
2. To make a financial report at all Annual business meetings.

4. Regional Representatives

The Council of Elders shall appoint Regional Representatives as and when the need arises.

Regional Representatives shall be responsible for running CMFI affairs in their geographical location. The geographical extent shall be agreed in consultation with the Council of Elders.

Regional Representatives shall be at all times accountable to the Council and shall report to the Council as requested.

Ordinations must be subject to Council approval and attendance.

Duties:

1. Receive, recommend and forward to the Council of Elders applications for CMFI membership.
2. Set and collect annual fees from members.
3. Keep full account of finances, income and expenditure.
4. Arrange local meetings for CMFI members and supporters. Major CMFI conferences and seminars are subject to Council agreement.

5. Furnish new members with certificates and membership cards authorised and produced by the Council of Elders.
6. As soon as possible appoint a Secretary/Treasurer to assist in the work.
7. Make regular reports to the Council.

All officers shall be appointed from time to time by the Council

Article Five: Membership

Membership in the association shall consist of the following:

1. Ministerial Members

Men with proven ministries (as defined in Eph. 4:11) shall be considered for Ministerial Membership.

Ministerial Membership will be subject to approval by the Council of Elders following receipt of an application form and with, i) suitable references, one being from the 'home' Church and the second from an accredited Minister; **or**, ii) the recommendation of a member of the Council.

An annual subscription fee for Ministerial Membership shall be set by the Council of Elders or, where appointed, by the Regional Representatives.

Ministerial Members will be supplied with a Certificate of Membership and a Members Card (credentials).

Ordination (Male):

CMFI offers ordination to those who believe it would be of benefit to their ministry.

Ordination is seen as recognition of ministry rather than permission to minister. Freedom to minister without the necessity of a "licence" to preach is fundamental to our nonconformist tradition. However,

there is, at the same time, a responsibility to provide acknowledgement to ministers in good standing. This type of credibility was given to Paul by the church in Jerusalem, and referred to as "the right hand of fellowship" (Galatians 2:9).

Ordinations are subject to approval by the Council.

Ordination services must be officiated by a Council Member.

2. Non-Ministerial Members

i) Associate Members

Male and female Christian workers who do not hold leadership, headship and governance positions in the Church shall be considered for Associate Membership.

Associate membership requires recommendation from a Ministerial Member of CMFI, completion of an application form and approval by the Council of Elders.

An annual subscription fee for Associate Membership shall be set by the Council of Elders or, where appointed, by the Regional Representatives

ii) Supporters

Those who are in agreement with the purposes, vision, constitution and beliefs of CMFI and whilst not Ministerial or Associate Members will help to promote, pray for and advertise the ministry of CMFI.

Non-Ministerial members of CMFI will not hold voting rights at CMFI meetings.

3. Associations

CMFI will provide an indirect umbrella organisation for churches, evangelistic organisations, missionary outreaches and other

ministries where the main pastor/leader is an accredited member of CMFI

If the main pastor/leader should for any reason be unable to continue membership of CMFI, whilst not responsible for his church(es) or organisation(s) CMFI will seek to provide appropriate help if and when requested.

A three year corporate certificate shall be supplied to member ministries

An annual subscription fee for corporate membership shall be set by the Council of Elders.

Article Six: Marriage status.

CMFI's general principle is only to recognise marriage between one man and one woman for life. Where divorce has occurred post conversion CMFI will not offer membership to any single divorced applicant or any divorced and remarried applicant except where the Council has established the existence of:

Clear and satisfactory evidence that a previous marriage (by either the applicant or his present wife) was terminated as a result of the sexual immorality of the previous spouse (not being a party to the applicant's existing marriage) in line with the Lord's teaching in Matthew 19:9.

In cases involving pre-conversion divorce an applicant's eligibility for ministerial recognition shall be decided on an individual case by case basis.

CMFI will normally accept the final determination of a civil court as evidence of previous marital history; where such evidence is not available or sufficient the Council will make a determination on a case by case basis.

CMFI holds that divorce is a very serious matter with major implications for those in ministry. The Council will need to be satisfied that divorced applicants have conducted their marital affairs with moral integrity and in accordance with the scriptural principles relating to ministry (1Tim. 3:1-13; Titus1:5-9).

Article Seven: Expulsion from Membership

If the conduct of any ministerial or corporate member shall be prejudicial to the interests of the association:

The Council of Elders shall make every effort to restore the minister or ministry.

If restoration is not possible, the member shall be asked to resign.

If the member so requested refuses to resign, he shall be liable to expulsion by a two-thirds majority of the Council.

Article Eight: Finances

The association shall be financed by annual membership fees, and voluntary offerings.

Article Nine: Property

All property real or otherwise purchased by or donated to the association belongs to the association and shall be used exclusively to advance the objects of the association.

In the event of dissolution of CMFI all assets of the association shall be transferred to an organisation or organisations with similar objectives at the discretion of the Council.

Article Ten: Statement of Faith

As a condition precedent to membership of CMFI members must subscribe to the annexed statement of faith.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

CMFI is a fellowship of Christian ministers and Christian groups who exercise a Biblical Ministry and stand for conservative evangelical truth.

We believe:

- The Bible, consisting of the books of the Old and New Testaments but excluding the apocrypha, is the inspired Word of God and is the infallible, all sufficient authority for faith and practice.
- There is one True and Living God who is the eternally self existent "I AM" and who has also revealed Himself to be One being in Three Persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- In the perfect deity and humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth and bodily resurrection.
- The Biblical account of creation.
- Man, who was created in God's image without sin and given dominion over creation, fell by voluntary transgression as a result of which all men are born with a sinful nature.
- Salvation is through faith alone in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was born sinless of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was shown approved of God by His miraculous ministry, died once for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, raised from the dead in bodily form on the third day and triumphantly ascended to heaven. Through His blood we have redemption.
- The New Birth is an instantaneous operation of the Holy Spirit upon repentance toward God and the exercise of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Baptism by immersion in water is enjoined upon all who have repented, believed with all their hearts and confessed that Jesus Christ is Saviour and Lord.

- In the person of the Holy Spirit, His work of regeneration, baptism following the new birth, empowering, indwelling, and sanctification of the believer.
- In The Holy Spirit's enabling gifts (with fruit confirming) to the members of the Church individually as He chooses.
- In the true Christian Church, which is comprised exclusively of all who by virtue of repentance from sin and faith in Christ are born again of God's Holy Spirit and have become part of Christ's body. The identity of the Body of Christ on earth is primarily perceived through the local church. We strongly confess the local church to be sovereign and autonomous. At the same time we reject sectarianism and divisiveness as great evils.
- In the spiritual unity of all who are born of God as opposed to unbiblical "so called" interfaith/ecumenical unity.
- In the pre-millennial personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the prophetic purposes of God for Israel and the Jews.
- That the Breaking of Bread is enjoined on all believers until the Lord comes and is a representation only of his atoning body and blood.
- In the final judgement of the living and the dead by Christ.
- In the everlasting conscious punishment of the wicked and unrepentant.
- In the everlasting conscious bliss of the redeemed.