

International Ministers' Fellowship

The Spiritual Compact for our Relationship

A. Introduction

International Ministers' Fellowship is a network of ministers of the gospel across the globe that share a common passion for **holiness, yielding to the Holy Spirit** for leadership and empowerment and a recognition that fellowship with like minded co-labourers is central to gaining divine approval. It is thus a living, loving network of like-minded ministers of the gospel who share a passion for intimacy with the Lord and genuine relationship with each other for accountability in an increasingly hostile world.

B. Background.

Originally known as Arise Ministries International, the fellowship was founded by Apostle Vance and Debbie Russell of Arise Christian Fellowship in Austin, Texas. From a handful of ministers, the network was divinely multiplied to enfold over 2,000 ministers in 32 countries as at 2004. In August that year, Apostle Vance Russell handed over the mantle of leadership as International President to Pastor Cosmas Ilechukwu, General Overseer of Charismatic Renewal Ministries Inc. with over 600 local congregations across Africa, Europe and North America. International Ministers Fellowship is undergoing a global transition with the UK chapter destined to set the pace and become the International Secretariat. Apostle George Akalonu serves as International Coordinator

C. The Vision

The International Ministers' Fellowship is unique in a number of respects.

Firstly, it is inclusive, embracing senior and younger ministers of the gospel, male and female who have a felt need to encourage one another to make pursuit of holiness a prime pursuit.

Secondly, it breaks down standard walls that divide the Body of Christ as members cut across denominational barriers, united by faith in Christ Jesus, purity of life and dependency on the Holy Spirit for empowerment.

Thirdly, IMF does not charge any affiliation fees. Members support the network, as they are led, through love offerings and free will endowments.

Fourthly, members are free to belong to other fellowships /networks they deem beneficial to achievement of their ministerial mandates.

Fifthly, the Fellowship shall encourage its members to make their lives and those of the flock of Jesus Christ committed unto their trust, the light and salt of their communities; to stand out for righteousness and contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints and not to be ashamed of the preaching of the Cross though it seem foolish to brethren of the Laodecian complex [Matthew 5:13-16, Jude 5, 1 Cor. 1:18].

Sixthly, the Fellowship shall proactively engage with other Christian organizations to ensure unity of the spirit in the bond of peace so that the High Priestly intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ shall be a reality without compromising the essentials of the gospel. [Ephesians 4: 1-7, John 17 to attain Ephesians 5:26,27]. Accordingly, the Fellowship will encourage all Christian ministries and organisations in the country to prayerfully define essentials or fundamentals of the faith to which all must subscribe in perfect unity; ascertain those issues to which preachers are at liberty to propound their perspectives, insights and revelations received.

Seventh, the Fellowship offers its members a clear win-win supra platform where they are able to exchange information on programmes and projects and support each other. We are all blessed as we bless each other in love and sincerity!

D. Core Offer

International Ministers' Fellowship concentrates on the following core offerings:

1. Provide spiritual support that enable members to excel in life and ministry by challenging them to live holy lives, as part of the Bride of Christ and keep heaven in constant view so that they will not be castaways after ministering to others
2. Provide members a process of continuing ministerial education through a regular school of ministry where they tap into the depth of wisdom available for all.
3. Provide resources to members at minimal or no cost such as books, CDs, DVDs, Cassettes, magazines, information, etc.
4. Network ministers of the gospel with each other across racial, ethnic, denominational and geographic boundaries to create the spiritual synergy needful to positively impact cities, nations and regions. IMF has become a powerful tool of achieving our Acts 1:8 mandate as it equips ministers travelling to cities, nations and regions other than their own with contacts and recommendations that enable them to be received and assisted on their missions. Pulpits are thus exchanged seamlessly without fear as all members subscribe to the same basic code of conduct.
5. The network runs an information network through which members are able to know the gifts and callings of each other. By tapping into the divine resources represented by different callings and giftings, ministers are able to build stronger and more effective churches according to Ephesians 4: 7-16.
6. The network provides a platform for younger ministers to receive clean, honest mentoring by elder ministers endowed with grace of fatherhood.
7. For ministers who have not been ordained, the Fellowship provides ordination. For ordained ministers, IMF provides ministerial licences. For those travelling to other cities or nations, the Fellowship provided recommendations. Ministers in need of attestations/references can look up to the Fellowship to fill this need.
8. The network provides the platform for ministers, ministries and churches within The same localities/boroughs to cooperate, pool resources together for reaching the unreached and community impact projects. The Lord has revealed that this is a key strategy for bringing this nation back to Christ.
9. International Ministers' Fellowship will partner with any ministers/ministries or organizations that promotes the teaching and practice of holiness, Church health, Church growth and corporate evangelism.
10. International Ministers' Fellowship members are constrained to do all within their God given ability to be a blessing to others in need; support the weak and build up the Body without pecuniary motives. Strong inter personal relationships and mutual support is thus encouraged.
11. The Fellowship shall organize conferences at such intervals and in such locations as are deemed beneficial to the membership. We shall freely share every information, which will bless our brethren in fulfilling their God given vision.

How to Join: Simply fill out the attached application form, after receiving confirmation from the Holy Spirit in prayer that it is His will for you to fellowship with us. Mail the form to the secretariat or hand it to Apostle George Akalonu or Pastor Ben Orija. You are welcome to a truly living, loving network of ministers who are serious about going to heaven and want to please the Lord Jesus while here on earth!

E. Structure

International Ministers' Fellowship is structured to tap into the widest possible spectrum of ministers rooted in the Word and pursuing intimacy with the Lord.

(i)The Advisory Council

This is a body of elect ministers who have attained seniority by reason of long walk with the Lord and consistency in serving the Lord in His vineyard, braving all manner of odds in the process. The Advisory Council shall fulfil the following responsibilities:

1. Members shall make themselves available to bring their individual wisdom and insight available to the Executive Council and brethren on any issue of interest.
2. Members shall make their corporate wisdom available to the Fellowship on issues of Doctrine and biblical standards so that errors are not allowed to creep in.
3. Members of the Advisory Council shall offer themselves as instruments of mentoring younger ministers who desire same.
4. Members of the Advisory Council shall be available to teach, exhort and minister to brethren at major conferences and meetings.
5. The Council shall arbitrate on issues or brethren at dispute within the Fellowship.

The President, Deputy President and Secretary General shall be co-opted members.

(ii)The Executive Committee

This shall be made up of ministers elected by the Holy Spirit to direct affairs of the Fellowship to ensure attainment of its purposes. Though assigned specific portfolios, the Executive shall operate as a core group, the leadership shall act in unity according to 1 Corinthians 1:10.

1. The President.

This officer shall model servant leadership of the Fellowship and in so doing

- Chair meetings of the Executive Committee, the General Assembly and other meetings other than the Advisory Council.
- Coordinate the work of all the officers and organs to ensure synergy.
- Act as official spokesman of the Fellowship.
- Provide spiritual leadership and direction.
- Ensure that all the objects of the Fellowship are attained.
- Embody biblical leadership principles and motivate all officers to follow.

2. The Deputy President

This officer shall work closely with the President to provide leadership and

- Take responsibility for providing inputs into policy formulation and assisting the President in spiritual formation amongst the membership.
- Deputise for the President in his absence.
- Chair the ethics and ministerial discipline sub committee of the Executive which meets on ad hoc basis to consider and deal with reports of misdemeanour or moral failure filed against any member or officer.
- Execute further responsibilities assigned to him by the President.

3. Secretary General

This officer shall be responsible for

- Recording proceedings of various organs of the Fellowship.
- Ensure proper safekeeping of all documents of the Fellowship.
- Assist the President to coordinate the various organs of the Fellowship.
- Assist the President to ensure adequate membership services are rendered.
- Maintain a working register of all registered members with such information as are considered necessary to give them adequate service.
- The Secretary General shall be a trustee of the Fellowship.

- The Secretary General shall be a signatory to accounts of the Fellowship.
- The Secretary General shall assist the President to oversee the secretariat and ensure adequate human and material resourcing of all officers and organs of the Fellowship by providing what they need to excel.
- Organize an integrated calendar of annual conventions of members

4. Treasurer

This officer shall be responsible for

- Receiving, recording and safe keeping of all funds of the Fellowship.
- Shall be a signatory to accounts of the Fellowship.
- Shall maintain the relevant books of account.
- Shall cooperate with internal and external auditors.
- Shall ensure prudent utilization of unencumbered funds of the Fellowship so that the best possible returns on investment accrue to the Fellowship.
- Perform such other responsibilities as assigned by the President.

5. Director, Family Development

This officer shall have specific responsibility for

- Making the family a prime concern of members of the Fellowship.
- Receiving revelation concerning the subject matter and sharing same with the Body of Christ.
- Conducting research into the subject matter for the benefit of the Body.
- Convening, with the approval of the Executive Committee, special meetings and conferences on family matters including knowing the will of God, courtship, marriage, parenting and ministerial family life.
- Chair the Family First working group of the Fellowship.
- Execute other responsibilities assigned by the President.

6. Director, Business, Professional and Public Affairs Network

This officer shall have specific responsibility for

- Advancing the concept of priesthood of all believers in the Fellowship.
- Encourage members of the Fellowship to train, equip and release brethren in their churches into productive ministry.
- Provide a platform for business, professional people and public servants such as Christians in politics, councillors, Members of Parliament to be trained to understand that they are on divine assignment as ministers in the market place.
- Chair the Business, Professional and Public Affairs network through which brethren of such standing from various churches pool their strength together to have a distinct voice and make maximum impact.
- Perform such other functions as delegated by the President.

7. Director, Church Growth

This officer shall have specific responsibility for

- Fanning the flame of revival amongst membership of the Fellowship.
- Keeping members of the Fellowship in full consciousness of the primacy of the Great Commission.
- Conducting training and impartation sessions for evangelists, ministers and members of their evangelism teams.

- Chair the Church Growth working group of the Fellowship.
- Coordinating group evangelistic campaigns/crusades in various boroughs across the nation through which multitudes stream into the Counties.
- Perform such other functions as delegated by the President.

8. Director, Prayer and Spiritual Warfare

This officer shall be responsible for

- Stoking the fire of prayer amongst members of the fellowship through a variety of media including the Internet, prayer sessions of Fellowship meetings, telephony, text messages, etc.
- Conducting prayer and spiritual warfare training sessions for intercessors and prayer warriors of member churches.
- Design and oversee implementation of a prayer and spiritual warfare shield for members of the Fellowship; the Body of Christ in the UK, the government and civil society including issues of public safety and the making and implementation of just laws.
- Chair the International Prayer and Spiritual Warfare Network, UK section
- Ensure effective networking with other Kingdom prayer projects such as Saxifridge Ministries, London Prayer Net, etc.
- Perform other responsibilities as may be assigned by the President.

9. Director, Next Generation Project

This officer shall have responsibility for

- Chairing the Next Generation Project which will develop policies and strategies for engaging youths born of Christian and ministerial homes with the faith of their parents in order to secure a godly leadership for the next generation. The committee will also explore ways and means that the full Gospel can be preached to reach youths of the nation irrespective of their colour or background.
- Constantly remind ministers to invest in the next generation in their churches and the community.
- Organize various programmes designed to empower youths in the Body of Christ and communicate with them through retreats, conferences, Internet, pod casts, literature, CDs, DVDs, etc.
- Provide research reports and proposals to local and national governments.
- Perform such other responsibilities as may be assigned by the President.

10. Director, Women In Ministry

This officer shall have responsibility for

- Chairing the Women In Ministry working group that will constantly develop actionable, biblical concepts for ensuring that the priesthood of all believers and the endowment of power upon prepared vessels both of which occur in the realm of the spirit, irrespective of gender, is constantly kept in the public domain so that the Body of Christ sets aside traditions of men and remove all limits to women in ministry.
- Through the Women in Ministry working group, she will organize various educative and enlightenment programmes designed to equip them for ministry and excel in their lives, families and callings.
- Ensure that women who are called to ministry receive practical encouragement, support and assistance to yield to God.
- Ensure that women in ministry love, appreciate and strengthen each other.
- Ensure that a calendar of various women events in the country is produced and circulated to avert clash of events/dates and that female ministers in the fellowship participate in events organized by such bodies as Women of Excellence, Women of Faith, Women of Wisdom, etc.

- Organize retreats, seminars and conferences for women in ministry.
- Perform other responsibilities assigned by the President.

11. Director of Mobilisation

This officer shall have responsibility for

- Developing strategies for promoting the work of the fellowship to ministers of like faith who need to know.
- Reach out to such people, invite them to Fellowship meetings and follow them up until they are properly integrated.
- Recommend Coordinators at Borough and County levels who will act as mobilisation officers in their localities as well as rallying points for local chapters.
- Chair the mobilisation committee of the Fellowship.
- Perform other functions as may be assigned by the President.

12. Director of Special Duties

This officer shall be responsible for

- Performance of special assignments in the Fellowship.
- Develop and advise on strategies for fulfilling the mandate of the fellowship and examine legal implications of Fellowship projects.
- Undertake assignments such as liaison with external bodies.
- Property acquisition and or development/redevelopment.
- Liaison with special interest groups, other networks and Kingdom oriented organizations the Fellowship should relate with.
- Perform other functions as may be assigned by the President.

13. Director of Communication

This officer shall be responsible for

- Designing a communication strategy for relating with the various publics of the Fellowship.
- Design and execute various promotional and marketing strategies for selling the Fellowship to its stakeholders.
- Develop rapport with the mass media and ensure effective liaison.
- Advise the Fellowship on sponsorship opportunities.
- Ensure that the Fellowship enjoys a house style for easy identity.
- Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the President.

14. Ex- Officio

To ensure adequate representation, at least two other Ex-Officio members shall be appointed to make up the Executive Committee.

(iii) Board of Trustee

International Ministers' Fellowship shall have a minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 Trustees.

1. These shall act within the ordinary and regulatory meaning of the word.
2. They shall exercise due diligence to ensure that all regulatory requirements concerning the Fellowship are met by regulatory authorities: Companies House or the Charity Commission of England and Wales.

3. They shall, on behalf of the Fellowship sign relevant documents.
4. Trustees of the Fellowship shall take charge of each and every asset and ensure that such are accounted for as and when required.

(iv) The General Congress

This is the annual convention of the International Ministers Fellowship. It is a time of

- Deep spiritual introspection into personal Christian life.
- Quality of ministerial lifestyle and labour in the Lord's vineyard.
- Spiritual refreshing in the presence of God.
- Warm fellowship with brethren of like faith and passion.
- Strong exposition of the Word and receiving fresh insights thereof.
- Receiving the fullness of 5 fold ministry as Apostles, Prophets Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers are used of the Lord to bring perfection, correction, guidance and encouragement (Eph.4: 11,12).
- Transacting any due ordinary or special business listed on the agenda including receiving, discussing and approving annual budgets, reports or receiving the leadership team that is presented for the Fellowship.

(v) Administrative Director/Secretary/Officer

Subject to need and resource availability, the Fellowship shall engage the full time services of an Administrative staff who, depending on experience and capacity may be designated Administrative Director/Secretary/Officer. His responsibilities for day to day management shall be defined by the Executive Committee.

(vi) County /Area Chapters

For logistic purposes, brethren living within geographic territories such as Counties or, in the case of Metropolitan London, groups of Boroughs shall be encouraged to constitute Area chapters. These will act on behalf of the

Executive Committee to:

- Ensure warmer inter-personal loving relationships amongst members of the Fellowship so that the world is made to see the power of unity.
- Provide a platform for joint action to tackle existing spiritual, social and economic challenges prevalent in the area.
- Promote deeper understanding of the gifts and callings of each other so that brethren can utilize same in pulpit exchanges to ensure that the flock of Jesus Christ is well nourished.
- Act as instruments for affirming information required for purposes of issuing references and or recommendation letters.
- Brethren located within such environments shall support and strengthen each other so that together they all can be fulfilled and succeed.
- Area chapters shall be vital instruments of promoting the work of the Fellowship and Inducting prospective members.
- In all things, Area Committees shall focus strongly on catalysing revival.

Area leadership is vested in a core group of active ministers led by a **Coordinator**.

F: Effective Membership

For effective participation, members of the Fellowship are expected to:

1. Attend the Annual Congress Convention, special and ordinary meetings

2. Participate effectively in the regular School of Ministry Project designed to ensure continuous ministerial education and training which enables them to be personally ministered to, revived and thus instruments of reviving the flock of Jesus Christ committed to their trust.
3. Reach out in love to other members, make friends, relate ministerially, exchange pulpits based on the leading of the Holy Spirit.
4. Honour invitations to special programmes of others; contribute to enable others achieve their God given dreams; speak well of others.
5. Utilize the logistics and facilities of the Fellowship according to need: ordination, ministerial licence, attestation letters
6. Use the network effectively to fulfil their Acts 1:8 mandates in short term missions and church planting projects across the world by sincere and transparent relationship with brethren in territories they are led to.
7. Support the Fellowship as they are led, promote it and invite friends!
8. Serve in any of these functional committees where they have deep spiritual or professional capacity:
 - Spiritual Formation/School of Ministry
 - Family First
 - Prayer & Spiritual Warfare Network
 - Church Growth
 - Business, Professional & Public Affairs
 - Women In Ministry
 - Next Generation Project
 - Mobilization
 - Communication
 - Special Projects

Subscriptions: The Fellowship subscribes to the leadership of the International President and Global Board. The Fellowship is committed to forge excellent relationships between various national chapters to enable members achieve their Acts 1:8 mandates. The Fellowship shall cooperate with and encourage its members to work with the Evangelical Alliance, African Caribbean Evangelical Alliance, Dream Africa; Hope`08, Churches Together, Pentecostal Fellowship, London Prayer Network and other organizations doing excellent Kingdom work.

