

Connexions International Limited – Guidelines

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ABOUT OUR ORGANISATION

Connexions International Ltd was formally established in October 2008 when the Directors prayerfully determined to take the former Australian Fellowship of Faith Churches and Ministers International (AFFCMI) into a new stage of development. We felt that it was important to the membership of our fellowship and network to revitalise and renew the direction and focus in which we are headed, and thus, with a new board of Directors and a refreshed outlook, Connexions International was born.

Connexions International succeeded the Australian Fellowship of Faith Churches and Ministers International which commenced in July 1988 to provide a ministerial organisation for independent churches and ministers. Now we are in a new season of growth and direction. One that we know will provide an outstanding network of support and fellowship that is reflected in the very name itself of our organisation.

Connexions International is here to provide you with an avenue for assistance, fellowship and ministry that is relational based and God inspired, so please take full advantage of what we have to offer whenever you need to. These guidelines provide the information and advice on our organisation in a brief and clear way. The Directors and members would like to welcome you to Connexions International and trust that as you build a wonderful rapport with your fellow ministers and ministries, the Lord will reveal himself in an even greater way and your ministry will prosper in every way.

Blessings, Dallas Hobbs, Gary Brown & Lyn Follett

Directors – Connexions International Ltd

CONNEXIONS INTERNATIONAL LTD – Connexions International is legally incorporated as a company limited by Guarantee.

AIM

To provide a networking and relationship based structure to which ministers and churches can choose to belong.

- This will provide a refreshing sense of belonging, security, mutual support, encouragement, training and inspiration.
- This will provide greater strength in the eyes of and recognition by the Community, Local Authorities, Government Authorities and other Organisations.

PHILOSOPHY

- We recognise that, in Scripture, the local Church and its ministries are autonomous, exercising all of the acts of government, organisation, discipline and growth, whilst maintaining a spirit of fellowship with other ministers and groups and avoiding a spirit of independence.
- Doctrine, teaching, encouragement, discipline and financial support are God appointed scriptural functions of the local Church and the local Church alone.
- No outside individual group or organisation without invitation has scriptural authority to exercise any function or activity which usurps or interferes with any function or activity which God has vested in the local Church and its leaders.

Connexions International is therefore, committed to:

- ~ Being involved in providing a Christian networking organisation and programmes which will help build the local Church.
- ~ Providing training, fellowship, encouragement and inspiration which will help develop ministers and leaders more effectively to carry out the work of the ministry at the local level without interference or control.
- ~ Encouraging relationship and mutual support between our members.
- ~ Providing visiting ministry from the Directors or members as invited by individual churches or ministers
- ~ Arranging regular regional gatherings/seminars for our members to build relationship and to provide any input requested.

◆ No officer of Connexions International shall have authority to be involved in disciplinary matters or in resolving problems or conflicts in the local Church without invitation. However, if a member minister is having difficulty or is pursuing a course of action that does not align with the Word of God and this is reported to the Directors, contact will be made in order to assist that member or church and to provide advice. The Directors recognise that God's scriptural discipline of ministers and others who have fallen is always with a view to repentance, forgiveness, release and restoration and never with a view to rejection, ostracism, isolation and ex-communication.

- Connexions International is, therefore, totally committed to restoration, spiritually, physically, morally, financially and ministerially, of all who have indicated their repentance and desire for restoration, as quickly as possible. The Scripture tells us that those who are spiritual will do this.
- Connexions International is a network of ministers and churches which are under their own local control. We may help any member, individual or group to establish a new work if requested but only on the basis that the work will become an autonomous self-governing body with its own Pastor and Eldership as quickly as it desires.
- Connexions International has no restrictions on its members being, at the same time, members of another organisation or organisations.
- Connexions International is committed to unity within the local church and the body of Christ as commanded by Christ. We feel that this unity is not doctrinal or organisational unity.
 - ~ Maturity is being able to disagree without being disagreeable. Maturity is agreeing to disagree and walking in love in spite of the difference. Maturity is respecting the differences in each other and especially the deposit of Christ on each other without envy, jealousy or resentment.
 - ~ Unity is accepting, esteeming and loving those in Christ whose doctrines, ideas or ways of doing things may differ from ours, because we are members of His Body and He has commanded unity and love. We recognise that there can be unity in the midst of great diversity and variety.
 - ~ Connexions International's established view is that our unity is around the person and the purpose of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is God manifested in human form and is KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. He has commanded us to fulfil His purpose on the earth which is to walk in love with each other while we win this generation for Him and His Kingdom.
- Connexions International is committed to building up, helping up, cheering up and lifting up God's Ministers, God's Leaders, and God's People in every way possible.
- Connexions International is committed to building secure Kingdom relationships based on unconditional love and acceptance amongst God's Ministers and God's People.
- Connexions International is committed to Both Men and Women who have a call to the Ministry.

STATEMENT OF BELIEF – We believe...

GOD – There is but one God, who is the maker of all things visible and invisible. Gen 1:1, Psalm 86:9, John 1:1-3

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST – We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, and that He is the incarnation of God, very God of very God, for Whom and by Whom all things were created. John 1:1-4, John 14:9, Is. 7:14, Is. 9:6, Matt. 1:18-25

THE HOLY SPIRIT – The Holy Spirit, the third person in the Trinity, proceeded from the Father and the Son, and is of one substance, majesty and glory, with the Father and the Son. John 14:16-18, John 15 :26, Matthew 3:16, 1 Thess. 4:8, Eph 4:30, Acts 13:2-4

THE INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES – We believe in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as the revelation of the mind and will of God; on the authority of the LORD Jesus Christ, we accept them in their original form as the Divine Word, which, when heaven and earth are passed away, shall yet endure. 2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Matt 24:35, John 5:39

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH – Through simply believing unto obedience in the atoning death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, we receive remission of all our sins and the gift of eternal life. Rom 10:9-10, Rom 5:1, Rom 4:25, Gal. 3:8-11, 24

WATER BAPTISM – We believe, single immersion in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, is symbolical of our death, burial and resurrection with our Lord Jesus Christ. Matt 28:19-20, Acts 19:48, Rom 6:3-5, Col 2:12, Acts 8:35-39

SANCTIFICATION – It is the glorious privilege of every believer in Christ to be made pure in heart and wholly sanctified through the operation of the Holy Spirit. John 17:15-19, 1 Thess 4:3-4, Heb 2:11, 1 Thess 5:23-24, Heb 10:10-16, Rom 12:1-2

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – The gift of the Holy Spirit is promised to all believers and is received by faith, subsequent to conversion. a definite physical manifestation accompanies this glorious experience. John 6:37-39, Acts 1:4-5, Acts 2:4, Acts 8:15-19, Acts 10:44-47, Acts 19:1-7, Gal 3:2,14, Mark 16:17

DIVINE HEALING – In accordance with the teachings of the Scriptures, we trust our Heavenly Father to protect and heal our bodies from sickness and disease. We believe that Divine Healing for the body was purchased for us by the atoning blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that by His stripes we were healed. Ex. 15:26, Isaiah 53:4-5, Matt 8:16-17, 1 Peter 2:24, Psalm 103:3-4, James 5:14-16, Mark 16:17-18

THE LORD'S SUPPER – In accordance with our Lord's command, we partake of this Sacrament remembering His words "This do ye in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:15-20, Matt 26:21-28, 1 Cor 11:23-25

PRE-MILLENNIAL COMING OF CHRIST – It is our glorious hope and earnest expectation that our Lord will soon return for His Church and catch her away to a place prepared before the Great Tribulation bursts upon this world. Having this hope we purify ourselves even as He is pure so that we may be ready to meet Him when He comes to gather His people to Himself. John 13:1-3, 1 Thess 4:17, 2 Thess 2:1, Ezek 37:22-25, Dan 7:13-14, Zech 14:4-7, Rev 11:15

PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED – We believe in the everlasting punishment of the wicked (in the sense of eternal torment) who wilfully reject and despise the Love of God manifested in the great sacrifice of His only Son upon the Cross of Calvary for their salvation. Matt 13:49-50, 2 Thess 1:8-9, Rom 6:23, Rev 20:11-15

THE MILLENNIUM – We believe in the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to set up His millennium reign on this earth. Zech 14:5, Dan 7:22, Micah 4:1-7, Rev 5:9-10, Psalm 72, Psalm 96:10-13, Isaiah 11

THE DEVIL – We believe in the personality of the devil, who by his influence and power, brought about the downfall of man, and now seeks to destroy the faith of every believer of the Lord Jesus Christ. Gen 3:1-4, Matt. 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-3, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8, John 13:2
One of the most urgent priorities today is to build blood-covenant relationships with each other while we have time.

THE BENEFITS TO THE LOCAL CHURCH AND MINISTERS

Connexions International provides –

- **ORDINATION CREDENTIALS** – We recognise that the office of a minister is a privilege and calling conferred on an individual by God. Ordination of an individual is a serious and sovereign appointment and the Directors must be satisfied that an individual meets the criteria of the Lord. Connexions International Directors will therefore prayerfully consider applications for full ordination and reserve the right to interview prospective ordained members.
Once approved an Ordination Certificate be provided which is only valid when accompanied by a current paid up Annual Membership Card. Application for Ordination must be accompanied by a personal letter of endorsement from a current member of Connexions International who is sponsoring the applicant. This letter must confirm that the applicant meets the requirements. This certificate is intended to be on display either in the Church or in the Minister's Office. The contribution for this provision will be \$150 Annually.
- **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?** – Those who are a member of a ministry team, eg. Pastors, Assistant Pastors etc. Ordination may also be provided, at the discretion of the directors, to those actively involved in any other Ministry requiring Ordination Credentials.

- **AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP** – This certificate together with an Annual Card may be made available to those evidencing a call of God to the Ministry and who are engaged in ministry not requiring an Ordination Credential, e.g. Deacons, youth workers, teachers and other department leaders within the church and who are recommended by their pastors. The contribution for this provision will be \$100 annually.

Application for affiliation must be accompanied by a personal letter of endorsement from a current member of Connexions International who is sponsoring the applicant. This letter must confirm that the applicant meets the requirements. The Directors reserve the right to interview prospective ordained members.

- Connexions International recognises that women are also called to the Ministry and Ordination or Affiliate Membership is also available to women who meet the above requirements.
- The local church may apply for membership and will receive an attractive certificate. There is a significant benefit in visitors seeing the Certificate when they visit your Church.

CONNEXIONS INTERNATIONAL MAY ON REQUEST PROVIDE ADVICE ON:

- Setting up your work on a sound legal and organisational basis, giving counsel where requested on the wisest method of achieving this.
- Effectively administering the local church and meeting all legal requirements.
- Such things as –
 - Financial Management and Budgeting ~Fulfilling Copyright Requirements ~Goal Setting ~Church Government and Administration ~Effective Home Groups
 - Building Effective Children’s Church and Youth Groups ~Men’s and Women’s Ministries etc. ~Singles Ministries ~Mission Programmes
 - Helping you to understand the place of computers in the modern church, especially in the area of meeting accounting requirements and church records.
 - Promote and organise Conventions designed to provide training, relationship, assistance, inspiration, news - in other words to T.R.A.I.N. its members.
 - Newsletters will be provided which can also be used as an outreach arm at the local level and which will keep you abreast of current developments in a wide range of areas. We welcome articles from members for our newsletters

THE LOCAL CHURCH WILL

- Have its own name and identity and is encouraged to indicate on signs, letterheads etc. that it is in fellowship/affiliated with Connexions International. This is beneficial in giving credibility to independent churches, both to those in the local church and in the community. It also indicates that we subscribe to the principles of unity amongst churches.

VISITING MINISTRY

Connexions International sponsors visiting Overseas Ministries making them available to the local church on a shared expense basis. This enables churches to have the benefit of ministry which they could not otherwise afford.

The Directors of Connexions International are able to visit and minister at member churches as invited and available. Additionally, members are encouraged to network with other members, both for ministry and fellowship. There are a wide range of different ministry gifts and specialised areas within Connexions International which may be a great blessing in your own church.

A catalogue of members, ministries and churches (by permission) will be provided to members on an annual basis.

Connexions International are also able to specifically provide to member churches:

- At least one weekend of ministry per year by the Director or their representative. The host church will be responsible for accommodation and meals only or may be asked to assist with travelling expenses.

MINISTERIAL & CHURCH DUES – Ministers and churches are not required to tithe to Connexions International. However, Ministers and Churches are encouraged to voluntarily include Connexions International as part of their missionary and outreach programme and to assist in the continued expansion and development of our organisation. This is purely a voluntary decision.

CONVENTIONS, ETC.

ANNUAL CONNEXIONS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – An annual conference will be held at a time and venue to be determined by the Directors. While, there can be no compulsory requirement to attend, the **Directors strongly encourage full attendance of Connexions International members**, as this is the platform for relaying visionary and development information, providing great Australian and International ministry speakers and a great opportunity for social and ministry networking. It is plain and simply a great time in all respects.

Regular conventions and regional gatherings for ministers, leaders and workers will be arranged, consisting of practical workshops for delegates and evening inspirational meetings which are open to the public. To foster fellowship and build relationships, luncheons, banquets, barbecues, with an inspirational time to follow, will be held wherever practical. Members are encouraged to participate in these events and indeed to arrange them locally.

ASCENSION GIFT MINISTRIES – Only Christ the Head of the Church can call, anoint and place a man or woman as one of the **five** ministry gifts in his Body. Connexions International considers you to be an ascension gift ministry of Christ whether you are called the Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor and whether you are paid by the church or work to support yourself whilst at the same time you are giving yourself full time to the ministry. Connexions International does not consider that those who are supported on a full time basis are superior in faith, position or ministry to those who give their lives to the ministry whilst at the same time working to support themselves.

We honour those who feel that they should work to support themselves. Paul worked with his own hands at tent-making. We do, however, believe that the minister should give him or herself fully to the ministry at all times. He or she should be willing to be supported when the number of people has reached an appropriate level and church income allows. It is important to note that a labourer is worthy of his pay. This is especially true once all of the people in the body are functioning effectively and where each is making his or her contribution as a member of His Body.

God's plan is that the Body grows and increases by that which EVERY JOINT supplies.
Our call is to build a functioning Body of Believers rather than a group of born-again individuals

ORDINATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING MARRIAGES

We are registered with the Attorney-Generals Department and have the ability to nominate our Ordained Pastors to become marriage celebrants under the banner of Connexions Ltd. We are listed as a recognised denomination under the Marriage Act 1961.. Ask us how to become a celebrant today!

CONNEXIONS INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

How does a Minister or Church become a member of Connexions International?

An applicant for membership must first be sponsored by someone who is already a member.

For further information about Connexions International membership or affiliate membership application forms, you are invited to contact our head office, any of the Directors or visit our web site www.connexionsinternational.com.

CONNEXIONS INTERNATIONAL LTD HEAD OFFICE:

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