

Global Connections in Mission - Constitution and Rules

BACKGROUND:

- A. Missionary Services New Zealand and Gospel Literature Outreach both being incorporated under the provisions of the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 are to merge their interests to better enhance their missionary endeavour both in New Zealand and overseas.
- B. Both Missionary Services New Zealand and Gospel Literature Outreach intend to vest in the Board referred to below the property referred to in Clause 2.1 owned by each Trust.
- C. It is intended to make application for incorporation as a Board under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 to enable the objects as set out in this Constitution to be put into effect.

1. DEFINITIONS

The "Board" means "Global Connections in Mission" established hereunder and being incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957.

The "Trust Property" shall mean the real and personal property inclusive of all investments or assets of whatever nature or kind which shall from time to time belong to, will be vested in or be hereafter acquired by the Board and shall be directed and declared to be held upon the Trusts herein set forth.

"Communicant member" shall mean a person whose association with a local autonomous church (which may or may not be known as an Open Brethren or Christian Brethren Church but which acknowledges an interdependence and fellowship with those that are) consists of regular attendance at its meetings and regular participation in the celebration of the Lord's supper or communion service without restriction or impediment imposed on him or her by the church or assembly through its elders.

"The Affirmation of Faith" means the Affirmation of Faith constituting the Appendix to this Deed.

2. OBJECTS

Recognising that the living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit yearns for the salvation of all peoples and actively implements and superintends his redemptive mission in the world, and that God entrusts the work of mission and evangelism to local churches as his primary agency for global mission, the Board exists to serve and support local Open Brethren or Christian Brethren Churches in their mission task, always respecting the autonomy, responsibility and accountability of those Churches before God. To this end:

- 2.1 The Board shall take a transfer of all personal property net of liabilities, and accrued income from Missionary Services New Zealand and Gospel Literature Outreach.
- 2.2 The Board shall hold the personal property referred to in Clause 2.1 together with the Trust Property both as to capital thereof and the income arising therefrom for the following charitable purposes:
 - a. To encourage interest in evangelism and missionary enterprise within the Christian Church in New Zealand and to provide active support for Christian missionary and evangelistic activity both within and outside New Zealand.
 - b. To support New Zealand churches in the promotion of mission and in the preparation, commissioning and continuing support of their missionaries.
 - c. The maintenance and promotion of Christian evangelism, Bible teaching and missionary enterprise as carried out by or on behalf of local autonomous churches or assemblies of Christians known as Open Brethren or Christian Brethren and as carried on by evangelical missionary societies whose primary object is also the maintenance and promotion of Christian evangelism, Bible Teaching and missionary enterprise.
 - d. To provide practical and pastoral care to missionary and prospective missionary personnel both when overseas and in New Zealand, including rehabilitation and resettlement support on conclusion of their missionary service.
 - e. The receipt, distribution and remittance of funds, including gifts, donations and legacies, entrusted to the Board for the objects aforesaid whether for transmission to recipients nominated by the donors or for allocation at the Boards' discretion.
 - f. The receipt and remittance of funds for the relief of human suffering.

- g. To support and co-operate with other missionary service groups, and national churches.
- h. The provision of any services properly ancillary to the foregoing, including, but not limited to, publications, seminars and retreats.
- i. To do all things that are necessary or desirable for the fulfilment of all or any of the foregoing goals and objects.

3. NAME

The name of the Board is "Global Connections in Mission".

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 The Board shall consist of persons who qualify for membership in accordance with this Constitution.
- 4.2 The persons who have made application for incorporation of a society as the "Global Connections in Mission" Board are hereby the foundation members of the Board.
- 4.3 The total number of Board members shall be not less than 10 nor more than 20, as appointed hereunder.
- 4.4 A prerequisite of membership shall be that the appointee is a communicant member who subscribes to the Affirmation of Faith and has the commendation of his/her Church elders in taking up the appointment.
- 4.5 The Board may decline to accept any application for membership without assigning any reason therefor.
- 4.6 The power to appoint an additional Board member within the maximum number authorised, shall be vested for the time being in the Board meeting as a deliberative body, and making such appointment pursuant to the provisions of clause 8.4 hereof.
- 4.7 On a rotational basis as determined by the Board, the Board may require specified Board members to stand down, in which case such Board members may offer themselves for reappointment, at the Boards discretion.

5. MANAGEMENT

The control management and conduct of the society shall be vested in the Board.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 6.1 The Board shall have the power by resolution to appoint an Executive Committee comprising a minimum of three and maximum of eight members, provided that the Chairperson of any such Executive Committee and a majority of the members thereof should at all times comprise Board members.
- 6.2 The Board may by resolution delegate to such executive committee, such duties responsibilities and powers which the Board from time to time sees fit.
- 6.3 The tenure of office of the Executive Committee shall be reviewed regularly, as determined by the Board.

7. SPECIAL PURPOSES COMMITTEES

- 7.1 The Board or the Executive Committee shall have the power by resolution to appoint a Special Purpose Committee or Special Purpose Committees comprising of any number of Board members with such Board members having the authority of the Board to second members of the public to such Committee or Committees without such non Board members or specialists/experts being necessarily Communicant members or adhering to the Affirmation of Faith. The Board chairman and/or the Executive Officer shall be *ex officio* appointees to all Special Purpose Committees. Any such Committee or Committees will not be bound by normal meeting rules and the members may communicate, in place of meetings, by email or any other form of communication as an alternative to formal meetings.

8. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 8.1 The Board shall hold meetings for the purpose of fulfilling the Objects hereby created at such time and in such manner as the Board shall from time to time determine, but not less frequently than annually.
- 8.2 The minimum number of Board members present at any meeting of the Board or the Executive Committee necessary to form a quorum shall be at least 60% of the number of Board members or the members of the Executive Committee as the case may be,

and providing that the majority of Executive Committee members present are Board members.

- 8.3 No proxy shall be acceptable for meetings of the Executive Committee. Generally, no proxy shall be acceptable for meetings of the Board, except for special reasons (in the opinion of the Board) for example specific issues on which members have already been fully briefed.
- 8.4 The members of the Board and of the Executive Committee shall at all such meetings as a matter of policy endeavour to resolve all matters affecting the performance of the Board and the exercise of the powers hereunder by a unanimous decision of those Board members or Executive Committee members present and voting at any meeting of such bodies provided that if all the Board members or the Executive Committee members present and voting at any such meeting shall not be in total agreement on any particular matter affecting the policy direction or actions of the Board or the Executive Committee then a decision passed by a majority representing not less than 75% of the total membership of the Board or the Executive Committee as the case may be shall be binding upon the Board and the Executive Committee. Any decision shall be immediately communicated in writing to all Board members or Executive Committee members who were not present at such meeting.

9. POWERS, AUTHORITIES AND DISCRETIONS

The Board shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the following powers, authorities and discretions:

- a. Carry on Business - To carry on any business for so long as the Board thinks fit (alone or in partnership with any person or persons) and for such purpose to employ in such business such persons at such remuneration and generally upon such terms as the Board thinks fit; to employ in relation to such business the whole or any part of the Trust Property as the Board thinks advisable and if appropriate to determine what part of the profit of such business (if any) shall be deemed income and what shall be deemed capital.
- b. Borrow on Security - To raise on security of the Trust Property all or any moneys which the Board may require for the purpose of this Deed and to secure the repayment of moneys so raised with interest at such rate as the Board may think fit by mortgage, debenture or other security over the Trust Property with such powers and provisions, and upon such terms, as the Board may determine.

- c. Investment - To hold any moneys coming into the hands of the Board, as may not be immediately required for any of the purposes herein mentioned, and to invest and accumulate the same in the name of the Board, in any investments or resources which the Board shall deem prudent with power to the Board at its discretion to vary any investment or resources into or for others of any nature hereby authorised and to stand possessed of such accumulations upon trust for the purposes of this Deed.
- d. Gifts - To receive any legacy, bequest or other gift of money or property for any of the purposes or objects set forth in this Deed provided that the Board may decline to accept any such legacy, bequest or gift, to which is annexed any condition or obligation not approved by the Board.
- e. Bank Accounts - To operate bank accounts in the name of the Board with such bankers as the Board shall select, and to deposit therein all moneys received and to operate thereon for the purposes of the Objects on such one or more signatures of the members of the Board as the Board shall itself determine, and to overdraw any account with or without giving security.
- f. Incorporation - To apply for incorporation under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957.
- g. Implied Powers - To exercise all or any of the powers and authorities conferred upon trustees by the Trustee Act 1956 or any statutory modification thereof for the time being in force.
- h. Acquisition:
 - i. Acquire and Dispose of Property - To acquire or dispose of at whatever price the Board thinks fit any real or personal property of any description in New Zealand or elsewhere or any interest therein as in its opinion will benefit the Trust Property.
 - ii. Obtain Credit - For that purpose to allow all or any of the purchase price to remain owing on mortgage.
 - iii. Apply Income - For that purpose to apply in reduction of the principal sum owing under any such mortgage all or any part of any income received from the Trust Property.

- i. Balance Date - By Resolution in writing to adopt any date as the annual balance date for the Board and unless some other date is so adopted the annual balance date shall be the 31st day of December in each year.
- j. Attorney - At any time and for any period to act as Agent or Attorney for any missionary or Missionary Society whose work or activity either in New Zealand or overseas falls within the range of the charitable purposes of the Board in Clause 2.
- k. Repatriation - To give guarantees or other forms of security as the Board may determine to facilitate repatriation to New Zealand of missionaries or other personnel serving overseas and in circumstances where the Board believe that such guarantees or securities are desirable for the welfare or protection of any such person or persons.

10. SUPPLEMENTAL POWERS

If at any time hereafter, in executing or attempting to execute or exercise any of the trusts hereby declared or conferred on the Board, the Board shall find its executive or administrative powers inadequately provided for by this Deed, it shall be lawful for the Board, by Deed duly executed and declared to be supplemental to this Deed, to make, take, declare and define such further powers as in its opinion shall be necessary or desirable for the more effective attaining of the charitable objects and purposes hereby established and this Deed shall thereafter be read and construed as though the provisions of any such supplemental deed had originally been contained herein PROVIDED THAT this clause shall not operate so as to authorise the Board to alter or limit the charitable objects or purposes above set forth.

11. VARIATION OF THIS DEED

The provisions of this Deed may be repealed, altered or varied (except in relation to the making of further powers which is provided for in the previous clause) by a unanimous resolution of the members of the Board present and voting at a meeting of such members duly convened for that purpose PROVIDED THAT:

- a. No amendment or variation of this Deed shall be made which in any way alters the exclusively charitable nature of the Board, and no alterations shall be made to the provisions of Clauses 12 and 20 of this Deed.
- b. The only alteration to Clause 2 of this Deed which may be authorised hereunder shall be by way of addition of a further object or purpose or further objects or

purposes not inconsistent with those already set out in Clause 2 hereof and not by way of deletion or alteration of any of the existing objects or purposes set out in Clause 2 of this Deed.

12. APPLICATION OF INCOME AND PROPERTY

- 12.1 The income and property of the Board shall be applied solely toward the promotion of the Objects as set forth in this Deed and any profit or gain or other surplus funds of the Board or any assets of the Board not required for the promotion of the Objects shall be held solely for such public charitable purposes as the Board shall from time to time determine and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus, distribution, or otherwise to any of the Board Members PROVIDED THAT nothing herein contained shall prevent the sale of goods or services to members of the Board at a price considered to be equal to that offered at an open market rate in accordance with the foregoing powers, nor prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable remuneration to any officers or servants of the Board or to any Board Member or other person in return for any services actually rendered to the Board nor prevent payment of interest at a fair and normal rate on any money borrowed from any such member.
- 12.2 No benefit or advantage whether or not convertible into money, or any income of any kind, shall be afforded to, or received, gained, achieved or derived by any of the persons specified in the Income Tax Act 1994 or any enactment in amendment thereof or in substitution therefor, where that person is able by virtue of that capacity as such person specified therein, in any way (whether directly or indirectly) to determine, or to materially influence in any way the determination of, the nature or the amount of that benefit or advantage of that income or the circumstances in which it is or is to be so received, gained, achieved, afforded or derived, except as specifically exempted by any section in the Income Tax Act.

13. ENQUIRY

Upon any dealing by the Board with the Trust Property, no person or corporation dealing with the Board shall be concerned to see or enquire whether the approval of any other person or body has first been obtained or whether the occasion for executing or exercising power to sell, mortgage or otherwise deal with the Trust Property, or apply the same has arisen nor shall any such person or corporation dealing with the Board be concerned to see to the application of such moneys received by the Board, or to enquire

whether the provisions as to the appointment or retirement of Board members herein referred to, have been properly and regularly observed and performed.

14. APPOINTMENTS

The Board shall have the power to appoint or to employ such staff consultants, advisors or an Executive Officer or Officers as may from time to time be considered necessary by the Board and to remunerate any person firm or company for services rendered to the Board and to make provision for payment of the reasonable expenses of any employee of the Board or for the retirement or superannuation of any such employee.

15. MINUTE BOOK

A minute book shall be provided and kept by the Board. Minutes of the entry into office of every new Board member and of the resignation or removal of any Board member and all the proceedings of the Board shall be entered in the minute book and shall be signed by two (2) Board members or such of them as were present at the meeting either at the conclusion thereof or at some future meeting if they have been duly confirmed.

16. ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Proper accounts showing all amounts received and disbursements made on account of the Board shall be kept by the Board and shall be duly audited with all necessary vouchers once at least in every year by an auditor being a Chartered Accountant as defined in the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand Act 1996 PROVIDED THAT no Board member may be appointed an auditor hereunder.

17. VACANT OFFICE

The office of Board member shall become vacant if a Board member:

- a. Shall resign office by notice in writing signed by that Board member and addressed to the chairperson for the time being of the Board.
- b. Shall be convicted of a criminal offence which in the opinion of the Board is of a sufficiently serious nature to justify the termination of the office of the Board member.

- c. Shall be disciplined by any accounting, legal, medical or other disciplinary body of that particular Board Member's trade or profession for any misdemeanor which in the opinion of the Board is of a sufficiently serious nature to justify the termination of the office of Board member.
- d. Shall in the reasonable determination of the remaining Board members have become mentally incapable of fulfilling the responsibilities of a Board member under this Deed in accordance with the definition provided thereof in the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992 and any Act or Regulation in substitution thereof.
- e. Shall die.
- f. Shall be adjudicated bankrupt within the meaning of the Insolvency Act 1967 or any amendment thereto.
- g. Shall cease to be a communicant member of any Open Brethren or Christian Brethren Church or resile from the Affirmation of Faith annexed hereto.
- h. Shall be absent from three consecutive Board meetings without reasonable cause, in the opinion of the Board.

18. LIABILITY OF BOARD MEMBERS

- a. No Board Member shall be liable for any losses other than those attributable to such Board Member's own dishonesty or the wilful commission by such Board Members of any act done by such Board Member which is known by such Board Member to be a breach of trust.
- b. The Board Member is chargeable for the moneys and securities it actually receives but except as set out in the preceding subclause, the Board and its members shall be absolutely indemnified by and out of the Trust Property for and in respect of any losses which the Board may sustain by the reasonable carrying on of any financial activity on its behalf.

19. WINDING UP OR DISSOLUTION

The Board hereby created and any body corporate into which the Board is incorporated at any time hereafter, shall be wound up and dissolved whenever a resolution to wind up or dissolve has been passed unanimously by the Board at a special meeting of the Board,

called for such purpose, of which not less than twenty-one (21) days notice in writing has been given to each Board Member, and such resolution has been approved unanimously by a meeting of the Board called not earlier than fourteen (14) days after such meeting, for the specific purpose of confirming the proposed resolution of the Board for winding up.

20. SURPLUS ASSETS FOLLOWING WINDING UP

In the event of the Board being wound up the surplus assets and funds after payment of Board liabilities and expenses of winding-up, shall not be paid or distributed among the Board members but shall be paid and applied to an approved charitable organisation within New Zealand for the furtherance of comparable charitable Objects as set out in Clause 2 hereof as the Board shall determine at the meeting when the resolution for winding-up of the Board is passed PROVIDED that if no such resolution as to any alternative application of the funds to an approved charitable organisation within New Zealand, is so passed by a like majority to that required for the winding-up of the Board, then the surplus assets shall be held for such other approved charitable organisation within New Zealand as a Judge of the High Court of New Zealand on application by any member of the Board or any other person shall determine.

21. DISCRETIONARY USE OF COMMON SEAL

In addition to the uses of the common seal arising from Section 19 of the Charitable Trusts Act 1957, the Board may at any time and as it deems fit use the common seal to certify any documentation when the use of the said common seal is in the opinion of the Board required by any Government or Agency outside New Zealand as a means of attributing particular documentation directly to Global Connections in Mission.

**FITZHERBERT ROWE
SOLICITORS
PALMERSTON NORTH**

GCiM Affirmation of Faith

What We Believe and Why

We believe each statement in this affirmation to be consistent with the teaching of scripture.

1. We believe that there is only One True God, revealed in the Trinity of the Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit to each of whom equal honour is due. We uphold firmly God's three-in-oneness believing that almost everything that matters in Christianity hangs on this truth. We are committed to bringing all people into a living, personal and ever-growing relationship with God.
2. We believe the Bible is the complete Word of God, given to us by divine inspiration; is without error and has supreme authority in all matters of faith and living. We accept its authority as God's authority and always try to act in line with its principles in our mission activity.
3. We believe that all people are sinners and subject to the judgment of God; that deliverance from the guilt, penalty, power and ultimately the presence of sin is found only through the sacrificial death of Christ who died as our substitute; that our being right with God is not achieved through works, but solely through personal faith in Christ alone. We are totally committed to communicate this message of hope and salvation, in particular by those who are involved in cross-cultural and global mission.
4. We believe in personal baptism by immersion of all believers as an act symbolic of our union with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection and attesting to our personal commitment to Him.
5. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, fully God and fully human but without sin; that he died for our sins but was physically resurrected from death and ascended to heaven. Therefore we emphasize the importance of acknowledging Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, his authority in our lives. We believe that all committed Christians should regularly celebrate the Lord's Supper in remembrance of him, this act expressing our unity in him.

6. We believe in the work of the Holy Spirit for salvation and for spiritual growth; that all believers are permanently in-dwelt by the Holy Spirit from the time of their conversion, and that all believers should lead godly, moral and loving lives under the complete control of the Holy Spirit.
7. We believe in the oneness of the Church which is made up of all believers; that the local church is the visible expression of the Church in its community, each being autonomous and governed by an elder-group; that all members of a local church contribute to its ministry by means of God-given spiritual gifts. Therefore we support programmes which prepare believers for effective service.
8. Our missionary task is motivated by the love of God for all people everywhere, as demonstrated by the compassionate ministry of Christ. We support the complementary nature of caring love in action, justice in human relationships, and the offer of God's saving love in words.
9. We believe the God we love and serve is the creator of our world with its people groups. We see ethnic and cultural diversity as part of his design and thus we will show respect and sensitivity in our cross-cultural ministries.
10. We believe that the supreme authority for the Church is our Lord Jesus Christ; that leadership, gifts, order and discipline at the local church level are all exercised under His authority and that all church members are to submit to the delegated authority of the elders.
11. We believe in the reality of life after death for all people, that Jesus Christ will personally return to take all believers to heaven and that this coming could take place at any moment. Therefore we are committed to the importance of spiritual and eternal values.
12. We believe that mission is rooted in the nature of God who desires to reconcile sinful humanity to Himself. Because he continues to implement his mission through his people today, we will assist and support what he is doing in the world. We will obey the Great Commission of Christ given in Matthew 28:18-20. We accept the responsibility to work together as a team committed to this task.