

The Charis Alliance – Charter

Purpose:

The Charis Alliance seeks to obey the Great Commission by promoting fellowship and cooperation on the regional and international levels among associations of churches that endorse the Charis Commitments to Common Identity and Mission.

Definitions of Membership:

1. Membership in the Charis Alliance is comprised of National Associations of Churches that endorse the Purpose Statement and commit to accepting the Benefits and Responsibilities of Membership.
2. To be considered an 'Association,' there must be at least three churches who enter a formal agreement to cooperate in matters of mutual concern. In most cases, these Associations enjoy legal status and represent our movement in their respective country.
3. Countries with fewer than three churches are encouraged to seek status as 'observers' in the Charis Alliance.

Benefits of Membership:

1. Opportunities for regular fellowship between leaders and churches that share a common commitment to biblical truth, biblical relationship and biblical mission;
2. Opportunities to cooperate in initiatives that promote church planting, leadership training and integrated ministries;
3. Opportunities to share human and material resources to meet crises and promote long-term development;
4. Opportunities to address matters of mutual interest and concern, and to speak with one voice to those outside of the Charis Alliance.

Responsibilities of Membership:

1. To pursue and promote the Commitments to Common Identity and Mission;
2. To respect the authority of member associations to govern their internal affairs;
3. To pray for the health and growth of leaders and churches associated with the Charis Alliance, and to consider how to bless and serve them;
4. To appoint representatives to the Charis Alliance Forum who are qualified to contribute to the health and growth of the Charis Alliance.

Renewal of Membership:

One year prior to meetings of the Charis Alliance Forum, all Member Associations will be required to demonstrate that they continue to meet the Definitions of Membership. The Executive Committee will establish and maintain a system to assist Associations that no longer meet the Definitions, and may determine to grant them provisional status, or if necessary, remove them from Membership.

Governance

Representatives: Each Member Association is encouraged to appoint representatives to the Charis Alliance Forum according to this formula: 3-10 churches – one representative; 11-99 churches – two representatives; 100 or more churches – three representatives. Each representative is entitled to voice and vote.

The Charis Alliance Forum: The Forum is responsible 1) to promote the purposes and goals of the Charis Alliance, 2) to establish and maintain requirements for membership, and 3) to appoint the Executive Committee. Assuming that the Charis Alliance is successful in raising funds, the Charis Alliance Forum will meet every five years.

The Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is responsible 1) to evaluate and approve petitions for membership, 2) to appoint Task Forces to address matters of common concern, 3) to create and administer a budget, 4) to plan and execute the meetings of the Charis Alliance Forum, 5) to speak on behalf of the Charis Alliance, and 6) other tasks as deemed necessary for the success and growth of the organization.

The Executive Committee will be comprised of two representatives from each region (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America).

Due to their extensive engagement in the creation and growth of the Charis Alliance, Encompass World Partners is invited to appoint a member to the Executive Committee. Unless renewed, this invitation will expire in the year 2025.

Transition to a Formal Organization

The invitation to become a charter member of the Charis Alliance will be extended to the churches of the following countries:

Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Central African Republic, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, Czech Republic, Chad, D.R. of Congo, England, France, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Ireland, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Congo, Sudan, Trinidad, Uruguay, United States of America.

To become a charter member, each country should meet the qualifications of an Association, and send a petition to the Transitional Steering Committee, including:

1. A statement of desire to become a member of the Charis Alliance;
2. A statement of endorsement of the Commitments to Common Identity and Mission;
3. A statement of acceptance of the Benefits and Responsibilities;
4. A statement which includes the name(s) of member(s) appointed to the Forum.

The deadline to submit a request to become a charter member is 31 December 2016.

The Transitional Steering Committee will evaluate and approve these requests. They will announce the names of the Charter Members and Representatives (members of the Charis Alliance Forum) no later than January 30, 2017.

The Transitional Steering Committee will be comprised of the ten current members of the Charis Steering Committee. This Committee will have authority to appoint members to serve in the place of any member who resigns. The Transitional Steering Committee will cease to exist when the Charis Alliance Forum appoints the Executive Committee.