



# ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES AFFILIATION APPLICATION

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# ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

Working together to network churches and ministers to fulfill the Great Commission.

## **Church Affiliation Governing Guidelines**

### **I. Churches desiring partnership with the Fellowship should:**

1. Be in agreement with the vision and values of ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES
2. Be in agreement with ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES Statement of Faith.
3. Be in agreement with ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES Mission Statement.
4. Agree to build relationship with other ministers in the Fellowship.
5. Agree to actively participate in building the Kingdom of God through this body to the best of their ability.

### **II. Church affiliation requirements:**

**The Senior Minister of the church desiring affiliation must carry or obtain ELFM credentials.**

1. Each church will be an autonomous body and, therefore, must have its own charter/bylaws. If the church is just beginning, ELFM can assist in establishing its charter/bylaws.
2. Each church has the option of obtaining its own 501(c) (3).
3. Each church must agree to certain standards in order to come under the 501(c) (3) Group Exemption of the ELFM.
4. Each church will give a minimum of \$1.00 per member each fiscal quarter to the Fellowship on a monthly or quarterly basis to support the Fellowship and provide for its on-going growth.
5. Each church will be required to apply for affiliation and then be interviewed by a ELFM Presbyter.
6. Each church will be required to complete a 12 month entry review period. A ELFM Apostolic Team will visit newly affiliated churches within that period and give a report.
7. A proper system of financial recording must be functional in the ministry, reflecting financial integrity. The affiliated church must submit a copy of it's financial report at a minimum once a year, and within 30 days after the end of the financial year.
8. Once a year the affiliated church will submit a report describing the ministry activities through the past year.
9. Each church should be committed to relationship, responsibility and accountability to the Fellowship and its apostolic team.
10. Each affiliated church should attend minimum 1 out of every 3 annual ELFM conferences (Senior minister or representative for the leadership.)

### **III. Fellowship with the ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES Fellowship of Ministers of Churches:**

1. Recognized ministerial staff of affiliated churches is eligible to apply for and receive credentials from ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES .
2. If an individual member of an affiliated church congregation desires to obtain credentials through ELFM he/she must submit an application. The application must be complete and accompanied by a written referral from the pastor of the affiliated church.
  - a) The application will be thoroughly reviewed by members of the ELFM Presbytery.
  - b) If the applicant is accepted for licensure or ordination, representatives of the ELFM Presbytery will be present to conduct or oversee the credentials ceremony in the affiliated church (if feasible). Otherwise, the applicant must make arrangements to attend a credentialing ceremony on the campus of Christ For The Nations.

### **IV. Benefits:**

- a. Increased credibility through identification with a world-wide organization that emphasizes integrity and responsible Christian conduct.
- b. The Church has the opportunity to come under ELFM 's 501(c) (3) Group Exemption status for tax exemption (Case-by-case basis).
- c. Churches will be able to receive guidance from the ELFM Presbytery and Executive Board.
- d. Presbyters will be available to minister to the local congregations and bring outside wisdom to the body..
- e. Churches may send their senior leaders and spouses for an all expense paid retreat to the ELFM Campus in IL. Travel to and from IL not included.
- f. Churches may use Placement services at ELFM.
- g. Churches will have the opportunity to partner with ELFM mission's projects.

### **V. Fellowship Accountability:**

1. We, as a fellowship, have the authority to remove a church from membership/affiliation if it is noncompliant with our vision, values, and statement of faith or charter.
2. The ELFM Fellowship of Ministers and Churches offers accountability to autonomous bodies.
3. As an affiliated member your church would be accountable to this fellowship only.

**Please be aware that affiliation with ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES Fellowship of Ministers and Churches DOES NOT entitle your church to include the wording "Christ For the Nations" in its name. You may, however, indicate that your church/ministry is affiliated with ELFM -ELFM .**

# **ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES**

## **Mission and Visions Statement, Core Values**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES is an international, interdenominational organization that exists to train and equip men and women with the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit and with a lifestyle of worship, to reach the nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We seek to expand the Kingdom of God worldwide by providing resources for the completion of church buildings, caring for orphans, supporting the nation of Israel, humanitarian relief efforts, establishing and strengthening international Bible schools, and the distribution of Christian literature.

### **VISIONS STATEMENT**

The vision of ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES is to fulfill the Great Commission by:

- Training and equipping men and women in the Word of God to be effective leaders who, with godly character and in the power of the Holy Spirit, will transform nations for the glory of God.
- Conducting annual short-term international missions' outreaches.
- Investing in the next generation by training and equipping Holy Spirit empowered children's ministers.
- Producing an annual worship recording.
- Conducting an annual evangelism youth outreach program through Youth For The Nations.
- Hosting annual conferences for women, worship, and the ELFM Fellowship of Ministers and Churches for the growth and nurturing of the body of Christ.
- Providing resources through our Native Church Program to assist indigenous pastors and church leaders in completing their church buildings.
- Providing resources for the care of orphans.
- Supporting Israel and the furtherance of the Gospel among the people of that nation.
- Establishing and strengthening international Bible schools through the ELFM Association of Bible Schools.
- Providing resources through the Literature Program for the distribution of Christian literature throughout the nations.
- Providing resources for the furtherance of missionary endeavors worldwide.
- Reconnecting the earth's history with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through affirming the biblical view of Creation.

## **CORE VALUES**

These core values serve as our guiding principles and foundational commitments:

- Exalting the Person and work of Jesus Christ.
- Upholding the Word of God as our standard for life and ministry.
- Training and ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Teaching and encouraging apostolic ministry worldwide.
- Commitment to passionate worship.
- Commitment to prayer and spiritual warfare.
- Providing an atmosphere for the development of increased faith.
- Fostering a lifestyle of giving.
- Commitment to evangelism and world missions.
- Commitment to strengthening the local church by encouraging graduates to return to and actively serve their home church.
- Affirming the biblical view of Creation.
- Fostering biblical character, integrity, and faithfulness.
- Emphasizing a life of holiness and sanctification.
- Commitment to the priority of family relationships.
- Upholding the sanctity of life and valuing each child as a gift from God.
- Compassionate outreach to the needy.
- Supporting the nation of Israel as a vital part of God's eternal plan.
- Releasing women as equal partners in ministry.
- Interdenominational in fellowship.
- International in outreach.

# ELFM STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Fellowship holds to the Statement of Faith espoused by ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES while recognizing the diversity of beliefs among Spirit-filled Christians of scriptural integrity. Therefore, we open the arms of this Fellowship to include and embrace all who hold to the foundational truths of the Christian faith.

1. The One True God: There is one living and true God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19).
2. The Scriptures Inspired: The Bible is the only infallible, inspired, authoritative, written Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16).
3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ: We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His personal future return to this Earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years (John 1:1).
4. Original Sin and the Fall of Man: We believe that man, created in the image of God, by voluntary disobedience fell into the depths of sin and iniquity, therefore passing on sin's nature and consequences to all mankind, with their accompanying loss of intended meaning and purpose (Gen. 1:27; Rom. 5:12).
5. The Salvation of Man: Man's only hope of redemption and salvation from the power of sin is to willingly choose repentance and faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that it is possible for a believer to lose his or her salvation by willfully turning away from the provisions of salvation which Christ has made. Salvation is a free gift from God and is available to any and all who call upon the Name of the Lord (Acts 4:12; Rom. 5:8-13, 15; 10:9, 13; Jas. 1:21; Eph. 2:8; Heb. 3:12, 6:4-6, 12:15; Matt. 13:22; 2 Tim. 4:10; 1 Tim. 1:19).
6. The Church and its Mission: We believe in the Great Commission to go into all the world to make disciples (Matt. 28:19).
7. The Ordinances of the Church:
  - a. Baptism in water in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All who repent of their sins and believe in Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. This is a declaration to the world that they identify with Christ in His death and have been raised with Him in newness of life (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47, 48; Rom. 6:4).
  - b. The Lord's Supper consisting of the elements—bread and the fruit of the vine—is the symbol expressing our sharing the Divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:4), a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Cor. 11:26), and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Cor. 11:26), and is enjoined on all believers until He comes!
8. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit: The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit with evidence by speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance (Acts 2:4). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit comes power for life and service in the ministry of the Body of Christ. We believe in corporate prayer with the believer's prayer language. (Luke 25:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 2:11; 10:46; 1 Cor. 12:1-31).
9. Divine Healing: Divine healing was provided for all in the Old Testament (Ex. 15:22-26; Ps. 103:1-3; Isa. 53:4, 5) and in the New Testament it is an integral part of the Gospel (Matt. 8:16, 17; Acts 5:16; Jas. 5:14-16).
10. The Final Judgment: We believe that all shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ: the redeemed to be delivered unto everlasting life, and the unrepentant unto everlasting punishment (Rev. 20:11, 12; 2 Cor. 5:10).

# ELFM FELLOWSHIP MINISTERS AND CHURCHES

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

ELFM was established to provide spiritual covering, pastoral care, mutual accountability, ministry resource and fellowship for its credential holders, affiliated churches and ministries which ascribe to the vision and mission of the fellowship. We also purpose to fellowship with all pastors, missionaries, leaders, Churches and ministries who manifest the Spirit of Christ and to encourage and edify the body of Christ.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of ELFM is to be a fellowship of people who have purposed to be faithful in stimulating one another to glorify God The Father and His Son, Jesus Christ and to obey Christ's mandate to preach the Gospel and to make disciples of all nations. To this end we are committed to serving and equipping our members in carrying out their respective missions. To ordain qualified ministers of the Gospel and license qualified local church elders and leaders in the body of Christ. To be a covering for local churches and fivefold ministers and ministries who decide to AFFILIATE with ELFM.

ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

**APPLICATION FOR CHURCH AFFILIATION**

**Must be submitted in a computer printout format (☐ may be filled in with pen)**

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

Ministry Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Web-site \_\_\_\_\_

Physical address

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address (if different from physical address)

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Lead Minister's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Is the organization incorporated? Yes ☐ No ☐

Date of Incorporation (MM/DD/YY) \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

What State? \_\_\_\_\_



Does the ministry have:

A Constitution/Governing Guidelines? Yes ☐ No ☐

By-Laws/Sacred Articles? Yes ☐ No ☐

Statement of Faith? Yes ☐ No ☐

Does the ministry have records of the minutes of the first Board of Directors meeting? Yes ☐ No ☐

Does your ministry keep a record of finances and minutes? Yes ☐ No ☐

If not, when will you begin to do so? \_\_\_\_\_

Does this ministry consider itself to be a church? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you have a church membership listing? Yes ☐ No ☐

Current number of members \_\_\_\_\_

Average attendance \_\_\_\_\_

Does your organization apply to come under the ELFM 501(c)(3) group exemption?

Yes ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial) No ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial)

Have you received, read and agree with the governing guidelines?

Yes ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial) No ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial)

Do you agree to submit a copy of the ministry's financial report once a year, and within 30 days after the end of the fiscal year?

Yes ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial) No ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial)

Do you agree to adhere to the requirements set forth in the governing guidelines, including the financial commitment of giving a min. of 2 % the gross income?

Yes ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial) No ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial)

Do you prefer to submit the 2 % fee on the following basis:

Monthly ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial) Quarterly ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial)

Do you agree that the wording “Christ For The Nations” may not be used as part of the Ministry’s name, but you may indicate that your ministry is affiliated with ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES Fellowship of Ministers and Churches? Yes ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial) No ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial)

## **STATEMENT OF AUTONOMY**

“This affiliated church is and always shall remain solely an autonomous entity with which ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES Fellowship of Ministers and Churches may work harmoniously, promoting the work and objectives set forth in its governing guidelines. ELFM shall not have nor ever attempt to exercise a single attribute of power or authority over any church or over its messengers, to in any way limit, interfere with, diminish or otherwise affect the autonomy of the church but shall recognize the autonomy of the church under one Sovereign, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Are you in agreement with this Statement of Autonomy? Yes ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial)

Will you be an active participant in this Fellowship? Yes ☐ \_\_\_\_\_( initial)

Sr. Pastor/Minister name: \_\_\_\_\_signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary/Presbyter name: \_\_\_\_\_signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **CONDITION OF MEMBERSHIP**

The undersigned, as an applicant for affiliation with ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES FELLOWSHIP OF MINISTERS AND CHURCHES , acknowledges and agrees that ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES FELLOWSHIP OF MINISTERS AND CHURCHES has no fiduciary or legal responsibility for the ministry and work of the individual ministers and churches who become affiliated with the Fellowship and that neither of its directors, officers, agents or employees shall be in any way be responsible or liable for the actions of the affiliated members. Furthermore, neither Christ For the Nations, Inc., its directors, officers, agents or employees shall be in any way be responsible or liable for the actions of the members of ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES FELLOWSHIP OF MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

The undersigned acknowledges and agrees that the applicant will obtain liability insurance coverage, or will be self-insured, to cover the acts of the applicant, its officers, directors, trustees, employees or agents in conducting the day to day ministry, business and activities of the applicant. Applicant agrees to hold ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES FELLOWSHIP OF MINISTERS AND CHURCHES, its directors, officers, agents or employees harmless from and against any and all claims or actions asserted against or arising out of the day to day ministry, business and activities of the applicant.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Responsible officer signing**

**Print name of signatory:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES  
Fellowship of Ministers & Churches

**Presbyters Recommendation**

Name of ministry applying for affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of ministry leader: \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT ELFM PRESBYTER RECOMMENDING YOUR CHURCH/ MINISTRY  
FOR AFFILIATION:**

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(\*\*ELFM RECOMMENDING PRESBYTER MUST SIGN THIS APPLICATION BEFORE IT WILL BE  
PROCESSED\*\*)**

# ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

## Fellowship of Ministers & Churches

**The following article must be included in the bylaws/sacred articles by amendment or as you construct your initial bylaws/sacred articles.**

### ARTICLE [   ]

#### **AFFILIATION**

While maintaining its inherent rights to govern its own affairs, this ministry shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative ministry affiliation with the ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES Fellowship of Ministers and Churches executive office located in Dallas, TX. It shall share in the privilege and responsibilities enjoined by that Fellowship, with the privilege of fellowship with other ministries of like precious faith.

Further, it is recognized that ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES Fellowship of Ministers and Churches Inc. shall not hold, enforce, or in any other way exercise any prerogative which shall be held in any court or body to be its legal right, with the exception of only such prerogatives as shall be specifically delegated to ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES Fellowship of Ministers and Churches Inc. by the ministry. Such specific prerogative shall be returned in entirety to the ministry upon two-thirds vote of its membership, providing any and all obligations to ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES Fellowship of Ministers and Churches Inc. have been dispatched. It is understood that the attitude and procedure of all individuals and ministries should be that of a compassionate and cooperative relationship toward ETERNAL LIFE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES Fellowship of Ministers and Churches Inc., in accordance with Philippians 2:3 and Philemon 14.

# Application Check List

In order to facilitate your application, it is extremely important that you submit the application with all the required forms etc. completed. Please use the check list to help you do this.

X off the enclosed items:

- ☐ **Copy of Articles of Incorporation/Certificate of Formation**
- ☐ **Copy of Acknowledgement letter from State where Articles were filed.**
- ☐ **Copy of letter from IRS indicating your EIN**
- ☐ **Copy of Bylaws/Sacred Articles (with affiliation clause included, see pg. 11)**
- ☐ **Copy of Minutes of First Board of Directors Meeting**
- ☐ **Copy of Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting, where affiliation clause was included (unless it was done at the First Board of Directors meeting.)**
- ☐ **Recommendation from ELFM Presbyter**
- ☐ **Completed Affiliation Application**

Affiliation approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

ELFM Overseer: \_\_\_\_\_