

Crosslink Christian Network, Australia

ABN 66 078 054 092

APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATED CHURCH OR ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP

Please note the following:

1. This application is for churches & organisations. For Ministers endorsement please complete an *Application for Endorsement as a Minister*. Please note Ministers endorsement is through the recommendation of an affiliated Crosslink church or organisation only. If you are part of an organisation that is looking for affiliation with Crosslink please complete this application first.
2. Only send the following 2-page form as your application; the last 3 pages of this document are notes for your reference only and do not need to be returned to Crosslink.
3. Please complete all sections as requested. If you have any queries at all, please contact the office (Phone (02) 6103 0100 or email rachel@crosslinknetwork.com.au).
4. DO NOT send payment with your application form. If your application is approved, you will be issued a Tax Invoice at that stage.
5. Your application may take two weeks on average to process.

Thank you and God bless.

Crosslink Christian Network, Australia

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APPLICATION FOR AFFILIATED CHURCH OR MINISTRY MEMBERSHIP

*** To help you complete this form correctly please refer to the Supporting Notes (pages 3-6)**

Part 1—CHURCH OR MINISTRY*:

Name of Church / Ministry: _____

Street Address: _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Part 2—SENIOR MINISTER OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVE*:

Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Mobile: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Part 3—APOSTOLIC COVERING / MENTORING*:

Names of at least two mentors who have agreed to provide Apostolic covering/Mentoring for the church/ministry:

Name: _____ Contact phone no.: _____

Email.: _____

Name: _____ Contact phone no.: _____

Email.: _____

Name: _____ Contact phone no.: _____

Email.: _____

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU COMPLETE THE REVERSE SIDE
BEFORE RETURNING THIS FORM TO THE CROSSLINK OFFICE**

*** To help you complete this form correctly please refer to the Supporting Notes (pages 3-6)**

Part 4—SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS*:

Please attach the following documents:

- 1) Cover letter outlining a sense of God’s call for you organisation to be affiliated with Crosslink
- 2) Brief history of your church/organisation (1-2 Paragraphs)
- 3) A copy of your Vision/Core Values Statement
- 4) A copy of your church’s Constitution
- 5) A copy of your church’s Insurance policy

Part 5 — FEES*: (FEES PAYABLE ONLY UPON NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF APPLICATION)

- 1) Church Affiliation Fee:** \$220 (pro rata) per annum (incl. GST) - payable upon notice of acceptance of application)
- 2) Church Affiliation Fee PLUS 1st Crosslink Endorsed Minister:** \$770.00 (pro rata) per annum (incl. GST). (see *Affiliation Fees* on page 5 of Supporting Notes for more details of Fee Structure)

On acceptance of the application for affiliation, this fee is payable to complete the membership acceptance process.

Part 6—DECLARATION*:

“We, the leaders of the above named Church / Ministry confirm that we share the vision and values of the Crosslink Christian Network Australia. The decision to seek Affiliated Membership was confirmed at a meeting of our Leadership Council. I have included all documents as requested.”

SIGNATURE: _____ Senior Pastor

SIGNATURE: _____ Secretary

DATE: _____

Please return completed form to:

Crosslink Christian Network
PO Box 182
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

Or FAX to (02) 6253 2202

Enquiries: TEL: 02 6103 0100 or EMAIL: rachel@crosslinknetwork.com.au

AFFILIATED CHURCH APPLICATION FORM

Supporting Notes

PART 1: CHURCH OR MINISTRY ORGANIZATION

The Crosslink Christian Network has been established to provide support to groups of Christian people engaged in Biblical ministry pursuits. While this is not the place to present a full Biblical definition of "church," it is essential for us to understand our place in what God seems to be doing around the world. In this context two observations could be made:

(i) there has been a shift toward relationship: The identity of a church is linked less to an institutional structure and more to a kingdom ministry expression. Crosslink churches in the main do not see themselves as partners, not dependents.

(ii) there has been a shift to a broader definition of "church:" God's prophetic word to the church during the last few centuries has generally been through what we have come to call "para-church" organizations. Most efforts to theologize this have ended up with terms like "modality" and "sodality." Modality usually refers to the local church and sodality to what is commonly described as para-church or missionary church. If we were to use that broad definition, Crosslink consists of local church congregations (modality) and Christian ministry organizations (sodality). Our observations of what God seems to be doing around the world would suggest that as the denominational boundaries are becoming redundant, so is the distinction between church as modality and sodality.

For the purposes of our enterprise we see little need to distinguish between the two. If we were to broaden the definition of church to refer to "the reigning presence of Christ in more than two people strategically related together for a kingdom purpose" it would appropriately cover local congregations and ministry organizations.

The important thing is intentional Christian community. Since we are a relational Network and not an institutional structure our emphasis is on helping groups of Christians achieve kingdom purposes. We are keen to ensure that these "churches" have agreed vision, values and leadership structures that are broadly Biblical. It is not our intention to tightly define those structures, but to make sure something is in place that the people who have gathered themselves together know they are there are agree on what they are.

This is the ministry unit we want to support. This is the reason why we would not approve an Endorsed Minister application unless that person was recommended by the community among whom their leadership is affirmed and acknowledged. We assume that the first level of relational accountability will be within the sphere of some form of primary Christian community (local congregation or ministry organization).

PART 2: SENIOR MINISTER/LEADER OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVE

As a movement that acknowledges that God is in the process of transitioning the church in order to fulfill the intentions described in Ephesians 4 and 5, and in that process we are working more intentionally to see the full range of ministry-equipping gifts operating in the church, not just pastors and teachers. We therefore recognize that the leader of a particular church may be called by names other than "pastor." When this part of the form is being completed we are assuming that the person who is designated as the overall leader will be nominated on this form. This nomination carries no additional responsibilities with respect to the involvement of the church with the Network except as an overall leader or representative of a group of leaders.

PART 3: APOSTOLIC COVERING/MENTORS

It is important that we have a mutual understanding of what we are attempting to put in place here. We are a network and not an institution and therefore we are committed to relationships as the key to doing everything that is important. We believe strongly that it is both Biblical and therefore essential for everyone in ministry to have someone whose love and gifts enable them to provide either fathering or coaching or some of both. The article, *Board of Reference*, on the Crosslink Website gives more information on this matter. We suggest you read this material and if there are questions or further information please contact the Crosslink National Office (02 6103 0100). The article can be found at <http://www.crosslinknetwork.com.au/membership/reference-material/48-board-of> or look in *Resources* and then *Reference Materials* on the Website.

PART 4: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1) Vision and Core Values

In recent church experience there has been a lot of emphasis placed on churches spending huge amounts of time developing vision and mission statements and values statements. Sometimes these have been set forth as doctrinal statements. We encourage everyone to do whatever seems useful in articulating the common things around which they are bound together as a community involved in Christian ministry. Our desire in asking for some expression of these has three core elements: we want to gain some idea as to what it is you believe God has called you to do. As a Network we are committed to supporting what God has called you to do and it is going to be much easier for us to do that if we know what it is.

We are not looking for something that will take a lawyer and thousands of dollars to develop, we are simply looking for a few pages that outline what you are about as an expression of the ministry of Jesus Christ. In addition, we are wanting to make sure there is a common commitment to Biblical authority and Christian orthodoxy. As a Network we have referred to the historic creeds of the church as a common core and we want to make sure we will help each other more than we will annoy each other.

2) Constitution

It is a legal requirement that each Crosslink member church will have its own legal structure. There are at least three kinds of legal structures available to community organizations: Unincorporated Associations, Incorporated Associations and Companies Limited by Guarantee. Once again, it will be up to a church to decide which structure best suits their needs. Our National Office can provide churches with samples of these structures. All three are represented within our Network. Rather than spell out in detail what each structure is suited for, we recommend the services of Nigel Berryman at Ministry Matters, who can help you set up your structure according to the latest government requirements (visit <http://www.ministrymatters.org.au/>). You can also find information on how to set up your organisation yourself through various State Government agencies:

ACT <http://www.ors.act.gov.au/BIL/index.html>

NSW <http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/corporate/publications/dft119.pdf>

QLD <http://www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/associations-nonprofits.htm>

VIC <http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/CA256EB5000644CE/page/Associations+Clubs+%26+Fundraising?OpenDocument&1=05-Associations+Clubs+%26+Fundraising~&2=~&3=~>

SA <http://www.sa.gov.au/>

WA <http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/ConsumerProtection/Content/Business/Associations/>

TAS http://www.consumer.tas.gov.au/business_affairs/incorporated_associations

NT <http://www.nt.gov.au/justice/licenreq/baal/index.shtml>

3) Professional Indemnity Policy

It is both wise and important for every church to have a policy to cover its members against some claim based on the regular exercise of a ministry or service. Here are a few examples of claims that have been made against churches in recent years: a. a claim was made against a church where a person received counseling from a ministry person in the church but was unhappy with the counsel and thought that promises were made by the counselor that were not fulfilled; a church in South Australia (not Crosslink) was sued when a person received prayer for healing but was not healed; a pastor in Victoria (not Crosslink) was sued for preaching that homosexuality was sinful. All of these claims were eventually thrown out, but the processes in some cases were very costly. We have a responsibility for basic duty of care, but unfortunately people are becoming more and more litigious. Crosslink Christian Network is able to provide a very moderately priced policy through Australian Christian Services based on a bulk purchase arrangement. If you would like to enquire about this policy please talk to Rachel Horne at our National Office. It is not mandatory for you to join with other Crosslink churches and receive your Professional Indemnity Insurance through our National Office. It is only an offer. What we do need is to ensure that you have some appropriate policy. If you already have a policy or are proceeding with one we need to have the details of that policy as a record for our National Office.

4) A Brief History of the Church/Ministry

Once again, we are not wanting to demand a huge tome. We simply want to know how God has led you to where you are at this point. It is purely for the purposes of knowing how we can provide the best possible support for you as you continue to serve Jesus Christ. A page or two outlining your journey to this point would be adequate.

PART 5: AFFILIATION FEES

The idea of Affiliation Fees seeks to achieve two goals: we want to provide a resource that will assist churches in their establishment and support them in the exercise of their ministry and in doing so we need to meet a very modest budget to cover these costs. In associate with Grace Christian Fellowship, Canberra we provide an office that is open during business hours. For that Crosslink provides the salary portion of a person who is paid for a little over two days a week. Crosslink is served by an Executive which meets on one separate occasion to the National Conference but all members pay their own costs.

What we try and do is to match a value against a fee structure. Since we do not have Endorsed Ministers whose churches are not Affiliated with Crosslink, we regard the higher value to be the fellowship, fraternity and accountability between leaders of churches. The lesser but still important fellowship exists within the members of a church knowing that there is a fraternal and supportive link to the other churches. We have set the fee structure in an attempt to provide a fair and reasonable sharing of our budget obligations without creating undue burdens. If there are issues related to the fee structure, they should be directed to Rachel Horne in the National Office. Shared responsibility and arrangements about payment can always find a point of resolution.

General Fee Structure:

- \$220 Church/Organisation Affiliation (Annual)
- \$550 1st Endorsed Minister (Annual)
- \$550 2nd Endorsed Minister
- \$220 2nd Endorsed Minister (if Spouse of 1st EM)
- \$110 All other Endorsed Ministers

PART 6: DECLARATION

Our issue in this case clearly refers to the idea that a decision to become affiliated with Crosslink Christian Network, Australia needs to be shared by the whole congregation, team or community. This decision needs to be represented in a decision of the leadership council and the statement on the Application Form simply gives expression to that reality. Once again, it is not our desire to dictate what particular form of leadership group this should be. It may be the members of a Board, or Eldership or some other body. It must be the group in the church that carries the legal and spiritual responsibility for the ministry.