



Harvest Network International

CONSTITUTION

HARVEST NETWORK INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION

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I. VISION STATEMENT

Harvest Network International is called to build an international network of ministers, churches, missionaries, and para-church organizations.

We assist one another in equipping God's people

1. to creatively reach and disciple the lost in our communities,
2. to intentionally plant new churches, and
3. to strategically partner with mission organizations and indigenous church leaders worldwide for the completion of the Harvest.

II. CONFESSION OF FAITH

- A. We believe in the one and only God who has revealed Himself to us. In His work of creation, redemption and sanctification, He has designated and manifested Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We, therefore, confess our faith in the Triune God, three distinct Persons in one Godhead. (Deut 6:4; Isa 9:6)**
- B. We believe in God the Father, the Creator, Preserver and sustainer of the whole creation, who in His divine majesty is infinitely exalted above all creation. In fatherly compassion, He seeks the present and eternal welfare of man whom He made in His own image, but who had fallen into sin and lived in the bondage of Satan. (Rom 8:15)**
- C. We believe that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, came into the world to be the Redeemer of mankind. By becoming one with man in the incarnation, Christ entered into decisive conflict on man's behalf with Satan and sin. By His perfect life, He was the Lamb of God who fulfilled the divine law and who suffered and died on the cross in our place, making payment for our sins. By His resurrection, He released us from the power of sin, death, and the devil. In His victory we are victorious. He has freed us to be His own, live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. We look forward to His soon coming. (John 1:29; 10:10; 1 Thess 4:13-17)**
- D. We believe in the Holy Spirit who regenerates every believer by effecting genuine repentance and a saving faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. That to all who receive Jesus are given the power (The Holy Spirit) to become children of God. That Jesus Christ, the risen and ascended Lord has promised to baptize (empower, fill) every seeking and asking believer with the Holy Spirit, His gifts and fruit so that the body of Christ (the church) might be able to carry on the supernatural ministry of Christ. (Matt 28:18-20; Luke 11:9-13; John 1:12; 3:5-8; 14:12; Acts 1:5,8; 2:38-39; 1 Cor 6:11; 12:3-11; 13; Gal 5:22-23)**
- E. We regard the Holy Scriptures as Jesus did. We accept the Bible (canonical Books of the Old and New Testaments as a whole and in all their parts) as the Divinely inspired, revealed and inerrant Word of God. We submit to this as the only infallible authority in**

all matters of faith and life. (*Matt 4:4; 7:24-27; 22:29; Luke 8:11; 24:25-27,44,45; John 8:31-32; 10:35; 16:12-14*)

F. We accept the Apostles' Creed.

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth: And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Christian Church, the Communion of the Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen."

G. We are thankful to the Father for the Gift ministries of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher for the building up of the Body of Christ. We are also thankful to the Father for the gifts of reconciliation, service, healing, and the many other ministry gifts. (*Eph 4:8-13; II Tim 3:16-17*)

H. We believe that the local congregation is a body of true believers; submitted unto the Father being conformed to the image of Jesus to declare the Gospel empowered by the Holy Spirit. The local congregation calls its own pastors, conducts its own ministry (with reference to its own ministry, this includes liturgy, vestments, baptism, communion), owns and cares for its own property. (*Rom 8:29; James 4:7; I Pet 2:9; Rev 1:5-6*)

I. The Head of the Church is the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Eph 1:22-23; Col 1:18*)

III. MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS

A. Ministerial Privileges

1. Intentional fellowship opportunities and spiritual care through annual assemblies, special conferences, and regional meetings arranged by our Regional Representatives.
2. Prayer for one another, our families, congregations, and ministries.
3. Opportunity for the full release of all five-fold ascension gift ministries and other ministry gifts on the Roster of Ministers.
4. Availability of spiritual oversight (Harvest Network International elders and others) for your church or ministry.
5. Ministerial credentialing.

B. Ministerial Responsibilities

1. Walk out a life worthy of the call of Jesus Christ in humility, holiness, and obedience.
2. Faithfully pray for the Harvest Network International elders, ministers, missionaries, congregations, and ministries.
3. Intentionally fellowship each year at annual and regional conferences planned by the Harvest Network International eldership.
4. Be willing to receive the oversight and care of the Harvest Network International elders.
5. Remit \$200 by February 15 each year as an annual membership fee to support the regional fellowship plan.

IV. CONGREGATIONS

A. Definition

1. A congregation is a local fellowship of believers who are called together for worship, nurture, and outreach in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Such congregations may take a variety of forms:
 - a. Traditional parish
 - b. Groups on college campuses and military bases
 - c. House churches/Christian communities
 - d. Liturgical/sacramental
 - e. Non-liturgical/non-sacramental

B. Application for Membership

1. Any Christian congregation who shares our vision may apply for membership in Harvest Network International.
2. Application procedures:
 - a. The congregation will complete an application form and submit it to the Council of Elders.
 - b. Representatives of the congregation will meet in person with representatives of the Council of Elders for prayer and consultation.
 - c. Upon the approval of the membership application by the Council of Elders, the congregation will be introduced and affirmed at the next Harvest Network International Assembly of Members.

3. All member congregations shall be free to associate with other Christian organizations and networks as led by the Holy Spirit and in harmony with the Confession of Faith of Harvest Network International.

C. Responsibilities

Member congregations shall:

1. Preach, teach, and minister according to the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God and carry out the Great Commission.
2. Accept the Confession of Faith of Harvest Network International.
3. Conduct their own ministry.
4. Secure pastoral leadership from those who are, or are willing to become, ministers of Harvest Network International.
5. Financially support the work of Harvest Network International. The remitting of 2% of a congregation's annual regular tithes and offerings is a responsibility of belonging to HNI.
6. Normally provide adequate hospitalization insurance and pension plans for all called ministers.
7. Hold title to all property purchased in the name of the congregation, whether it retains or terminates membership in Harvest Network International.
8. Send at least one representative to the regularly scheduled Harvest Network International network wide Assemblies.
9. Be released from Harvest Network International by sending a letter of resignation to the Council of Elders.

V. MINISTRIES

A. Definition

A ministry is a team of believers other than a local congregation bound together in a work of the Holy Spirit to use their gifts to spread the good news or equip people to more effectively serve God. (*1 Pet 4:10*)

B. Application for Membership

1. Any ministry who shares our vision may apply for membership in Harvest Network International.
2. Application procedures:
 - a. The leader of the ministry is or will become a minister of Harvest Network International (see Roster of Ministers).
 - b. The leader of the ministry will complete an application form and submit it to the Council of Elders for review.
 - c. Upon the approval of the membership application by the Council of Elders, the ministry will be issued a Certificate of Membership and the ministry activity will be publicized, as appropriate, to other Harvest Network International members. Networking and fellowship between ministries will be encouraged.
3. All member ministries shall be free to associate with other Christian organizations and networks as led by the Holy Spirit and in harmony with the Confession of Faith of Harvest Network International.

C. Responsibilities

Member ministries shall:

1. Preach, teach, and minister according to the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God and carry out the Great Commission.
2. Accept the Confession of Faith of Harvest Network International.
3. Conduct their own ministry.
4. Contribute \$200 annually to the General Fund of Harvest Network International by February 15th of each year.
5. Participate in Harvest Network International regional meetings and assemblies.
6. Conduct their affairs to the highest standards of the Gospel.
7. Partner with the congregations of Harvest Network International.
8. Be released from Harvest Network International by sending a letter of resignation to the Council of Elders.

VI. ROSTER OF MINISTERS

The ministers of the Network shall be in accord with ***Ephesians 4:11-13***:

These include the Ascension gift ministries of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, and other Word Ministers **as recognized by the Council of Elders**, such as Chaplains and Missionaries. It also includes people with ministry gifts of reconciliation, healing, caring for the poor, service, worship arts and other ministry gifts.

- A. To be on the Roster of Ministers of Harvest Network International, a minister must be called by the Lord Jesus Christ into the ministry of the Christian Church.
- B. A minister needs to be adequately trained and must have graduated from an accredited Christian seminary, or be trained and prepared by an approved and accredited Christian college or university, or have been approved and ordained by an accredited organization of Evangelical ministers, or have a valid ministry recognized by the **Council of Elders**. (*II Tim 2:15*)
- C. A minister must accept the Confession of Faith of Harvest Network International.
- D. A minister's life must be in harmony with ***I Timothy 3:1-13***.
- E. To become a member on the Roster of Ministers, application must be made in writing to the **Council of Elders**. The application must be accompanied by:
 - 1. A personal testimony of faith and ministry to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 2. Two (2) letters of reference.
 - 3. A recent photo of the applicant and or family.
 - 4. A signed statement of Harvest Network International 's Confession of Faith at the end of the application.

Following receipt of a completed application, the Regional Representative for the applicant's geographic area will schedule an appointment for an interview. The Council of Elders will review the application and the Regional Representative's recommendation resulting from said interview. Discernment to accept a minister is the responsibility of the Council of Elders and membership is granted at their sole discretion. Those ministers received by the Council of Elders will be introduced and affirmed at the next assembly.

- F. To be released from the Roster of Ministers, a simple letter of resignation to the Council of Elders is required.
- G. Disciplinary action will be according to ***Matthew 18:15-17***.

VII. LEADERSHIP

A. Council of Elders

1. A **Council of Elders** will serve as legal trustees and give oversight to Harvest Network International.
2. Additional Elders will be raised up by the Holy Spirit in accordance with the following procedure (*Acts 20:28*):
 - a. Qualifications
 - 1) All Elder candidates will be members of the Roster of Ministers.
 - 2) They must be mature in the Lord and live lives in harmony with *1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9*.
 - b. Nominations
 - 1) Nominations for Elders may be made by any member congregation or ministry or any Elder at any time.
 - 2) Nominations for Elder will be submitted to the **Council of Elders** who have the responsibility of appointing new Elders.
 - 3) Upon unanimous recommendation by the **Council of Elders**, the names of nominated Elders will be submitted to member congregations, ministries, and ministers for further discernment and confirmation.
 - (a) Confirmations, questions, or objections regarding Elder candidates shall be mailed to the Presiding Overseer.
 - (b) Member congregations and ministries will have thirty (30) days in which to respond.
 - 4) New Elders will begin to function immediately upon unanimous appointment by the Council of Elders.
 - 5) At the Annual Assembly, all newly appointed Elders will be publicly received with prayer and the laying on of hands by the **Council of Elders**. (*1 Tim 4:14*)
 - c. Terms of Office
Elders will serve for life unless they are called home to glory, resign, or are removed according to *Matthew 18:15-17*.
 - d. Responsibilities
 - 1) The **Council of Elders** will serve as the spiritual covering for Harvest Network International. As such, they will fast, pray, and act so that the blessing, protection, wisdom, and vision of the Father rests upon all member congregations, ministries, and ministers. (*Num 10:33-36*)
 - 2) The Council of Elders will facilitate the expansion of the Kingdom of God by encouraging our member ministries to work together to fulfill The Great Commission according to *Matthew 28:19-20*.

B. Association Officers

1. Presiding Overseer
 - a. The Presiding Overseer shall be chosen from among the Elders by the Council of Elders for a four (4) year term.
 - b. He may serve an indefinite time beyond his first term at the discretion of the **Council of Elders**.
 - c. His duties shall be to:
 - 1) Preside at all meetings of the **Council of Elders** or find a substitute in his absence.
 - 2) Preside at the regularly scheduled Assemblies.
 - 3) Represent Harvest Network International at meetings and functions.
 - 4) Be the visible head of Harvest Network International.
 - d. In the event the Presiding Overseer is unable to function, the **Council of Elders** shall appoint an interim head until such time as the Presiding Overseer can either resume his duties or be replaced.
2. Executive Secretary
 - a. The Executive Secretary shall be chosen by the **Council of Elders** for a four (4) year term.
 - b. He may serve an indefinite number of terms at the discretion of the Council of Elders.
 - c. His duties shall be to:
 - 1) Record and keep all minutes of the **Council of Elders**.
 - 2) Record and keep all minutes of the annual Assembly of Congregations.
 - 3) Fulfill other duties as assigned by the **Council of Elders**.
3. Treasurer
 - a. The Treasurer shall be an individual appointed by the Council of Elders for an unlimited time.
 - b. His duties shall be to:
 - 1) Prepare an annual report for Harvest Network International. This report will include:
 - (a) Income of Harvest Network International
 - (b) Expenditures of Harvest Network International
 - (c) Annual budget
 - 2) Report to all member congregations the status of their offerings at least once a year.
 - 3) Arrange for an audit of Harvest Network International books and accounts.

C. Gift Ministries

1. Harvest Network International recognizes apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers promised to the Church by the Ascended Lord Jesus Christ. (*Eph 4:8-13*)

2. Harvest Network International also recognizes other gifts and ministries that are to be used for the advancement of the Kingdom.
(Rom 12:6-8; I Cor 12:8-10,28; II Cor 5:17-21; Eph 5:19-20; I Pet 4:10-11)
4. Member congregations will be encouraged to invite these ministries into their midst for the upbuilding and equipping of the saints. *(Eph 4:8-13)*
5. Special care will be given to honor Spirit-ordained relationships between specific congregations and ministries. *(I Cor 3:6; 4:15)*

D. Fellowship Gatherings

1. Harvest Network International is committed to building strong, spiritual relationships at all levels of leadership.
2. To facilitate this process, the Council of Elders will coordinate a variety of ministers' conferences where fellowship, encouragement, teaching, testimony, and prayer ministry will be provided.
3. Harvest Network International ministers will also be encouraged to gather locally and regionally as the Holy Spirit may lead.

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

A. Introduction

The intent of the Council of Elders is to provide only that administration and administrative staff as is necessary to carry out the work of this ministry. The administrative plan can be adjusted as the need arises and according to the direction of the Council of Elders.

B. Office of Administrator

An Administrator of Harvest Network International will be called and given oversight by the Council of Elders. He/She will work with the Presiding Overseer to administrate and give direction to the ministries and programs of Harvest Network International.

He/She shall carry forth such instructions and duties as are directed by the Council of Elders.

Following is a list of official duties of the Administrator and his/her office:

1. Maintain a Roster of Ministers, Congregations and Ministries who belong to Harvest Network International.

2. Maintain a Roster of Ministers who are related to Harvest Network International: The Ascension Gift Ministries of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers; Chaplains and Missionaries; and others who are recognized by the Council of Elders.
3. Bill annually for member dues.
4. Receive dues payments and offerings and record all financial transactions, with regular reports being made to the Council of Elders.
5. Receive and direct all correspondence and communications pertaining to the work of Harvest Network International.
6. Publish the Annual Report for Harvest Network International.
7. Prepare programs and agendas for the annual Assembly of Members under direction of the Council of Elders.
8. The Administrator and his/her office will serve as the 'Caretakers' for the Assembly of Members, overseeing all arrangements for housing, travel, food, and meeting places.
9. The Administrator will employ such skilled staff as is essential to accomplish these goals in accord with standard office administrative excellence, by approval of the Council of Elders of Harvest Network International.

C. Offices and Physical Property

The intention of the Board is to maintain office supplies and technology as would be required to carry out the activities of Harvest Network International in a manner pleasing to the Lord and in accordance with standard administrative procedures.

The Administrator will be authorized by the Council of Elders to lease, rent, or build such facilities as the Council of Elders determines. These facilities may be expanded or reduced as the Council of Elders directs according to the needs of Harvest Network International.

D. Regional Representatives

The Council of Elders will identify representatives who will be able to give spiritual care to the congregations, ministries, and ministers of Harvest Network International upon request.

The Council of Elders will establish regional areas throughout the United States where a Regional Representative will be located to represent the work of Harvest Network International.

1. Harvest Network International will pay particular attention to strong communications both within its network of members and in the communication of the Gospel to the world.

2. The Council of Elders will be charged with the responsibility of statements to the media.

E. Pastoral Overseer Elder

The pastoral overseer(s) shall be called by the elders to provide oversight and personal contact with the members. They will be paid as determined by the elders. Their job shall be:

1. To support and train the Regional Representatives in their duties.
2. To be “pastors” to all Harvest Network International pastors as needed or requested.
3. Report bimonthly to the Harvest Network International elders regarding the spiritual growth, needs of, and condition of Harvest Network International ministers, churches, and ministries.
4. Provide any other duties as requested by the Council of Elders.

IX. THE GREAT COMMISSION

A. Harvest Network International is committed to fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Matt 28:18-20)

1. The broader dimensions of the Great Commission include the following:
 - a. Preaching the Gospel to all nations. (Matt 10:1,7-8; 28:18-20; Mark 3:14-15; 16:15-20; Luke 4:16-21; 10:1-9; 24:44-49; John 20:21-23; Acts 1:4-5,8)
 - b. Baptizing converts. (Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20)
 - c. Teaching and equipping believers to become mature, obedient disciples. (Matt 28:18-20; John 21:15-17; Eph 4:11-16)
 - d. Doing signs and wonders to confirm the Word of God--healing, deliverance, miracles, supernatural gifts. (Matt 10:1,7-8; Mark 3:14-15; 16:15-20; Luke 4:16-21; 10:1-9,17-20; John 14:12; Heb 2:3,4)
 - e. Caring for the poor and needy. (Matt 25:31-40; Gal 2:9)
 - f. Seeking to manifest true unity with all believers. (John 17:20-23; Eph 4:1-6)
 - g. Praying for the guidance and blessing of the Holy Spirit. (Zech 4:6; Luke 10:2; 11:9-10,13; John 5:19-20; Acts 1:8; 10:38; Heb 2:3-4)

B. The primary responsibility for carrying out the Great Commission rests upon local congregations. (Rom 12:4-8; 1 Cor 12:4-14; 16:1-4; Eph 4:11-16; 1 Pet 4:10-11)

C. According to Scripture, it is the God-ordained function of the Gift Ministries to assist and mature God's people to fulfill the Great Commission. (Acts 5:12-16; Eph 4:11-13)

1. The Council of Elders will seek to discern and identify the Gift Ministries in those listed on the Roster of Ministers and will facilitate the release of these gifts among the congregations of Harvest Network International. (*Acts 11:22-26; 13:1-3; 15:22-32; Titus 1:4-5*)

2. A brief description of the Ascension Gift Ministries promised by the Lord Jesus Christ in each generation:
 - a. Apostle
 - 1) "Apostolos" - an ambassador, one sent forth with a commission. (*1 Cor 3:10-15; 12:28; Eph 2:20*)
 - 2) An apostle is a person who is called, gifted, and sent forth by the Lord Jesus Christ to faithfully represent Him and to establish His purposes on earth as a wise master builder by overseeing the planting and developing of local churches at home and abroad.
 - b. Prophet
 - 1) "Prophets" - one who speaks forth the mind and counsel of God. (*Acts 13:1; 1 Cor 12:28; Eph 2:20*)
 - 2) A prophet is a person with spiritual authority in the church universal who is called and gifted by the Lord Jesus Christ to declare the divine counsels of grace already accomplished in Christ, to foretell the future purposes of God, and to stir up the church to faith, hope, and obedience.
 - c. Evangelist
 - 1) "Euangelistes" - one who preaches news of salvation. (*Acts 8:4-8, 12-17; 21:8*)
 - 2) An evangelist is a person who is called and gifted by the Lord Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel to the lost with the view of bringing them into the Kingdom of God through repentance and faith and to equip the saints to be more effective Christian witnesses.
 - d. Pastor
 - 1) "Pomain" - one who tends and feeds a flock. (*Acts 20:28; Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 5:1-4*)
 - 2) A pastor is a person who is called and gifted by the Lord Jesus Christ to have the primary spiritual authority over a local flock of believers and to feed, lead, and protect them so that they remain faithful to Jesus, grow in grace and in knowledge, and become fruitful in Christian service.
 - e. Teacher
 - 1) "Didaskalos" - one who explains and instills doctrine in others. (*Acts 13:1; 18:24-28; 1 Cor 12:28*)
 - 2) A teacher is a person who is called and gifted by the Lord Jesus Christ to systematically expound the Word of God so that the people of God are established in the basic doctrines of the faith and brought to maturity in Christ.

X. ASSEMBLY OF CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTRIES

- A. There will be an annual assembly of all congregations and ministries of Harvest Network International to present ourselves before the Father. (*Deut 16:16-17*)
- B. The assembly will be for inspiration, teaching, affirmation, fellowship, worship, praise, prayer, sharing and ministry.
- C. Each congregation or ministry shall send at least one representative.
- D. The agenda for the convention will be established by the Council of Elders. Any congregation or ministry may submit an item to be placed on the agenda for consideration. (*Ps 89:7; Acts 15:22,28*)

XI. FINANCES

- A. Harvest Network International will provide needed office, clerical staff, and facilities to carry out its mission.
- B. Each year the Council of Elders, together with the Executive Secretary, will prepare a comprehensive budget to cover all areas of operation.
- C. Each member congregation agrees to make regular contributions to Harvest Network International. The contributions are to equal 2% of weekly regular tithes and offerings of the organization.
- D. Each minister and ministry on the Roster of Ministers will pay their annual dues. As of 2007, dues for a minister or ministry is a flat fee of \$200.00.
- E. The Office of the Executive Secretary, in conjunction with the Treasurer, will maintain records and keep member congregations and ministries informed of their giving and the giving of Harvest Network International. If Harvest Network International has no treasurer, the Executive Secretary must be responsible for this function. All financial records of Harvest Network International are available upon request to the members.
- F. Any adjustments to the annual budget of Harvest Network International may be made by the Council of Elders between annual assemblies.