



KINGDOM
MINISTRIES USA

Connect - Commune - Collaborate

RELATIONAL NETWORK MANUAL

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INTRODUCTION

A Word from the Executive Team Leader of Kingdom Ministries USA

Dear Fellow Ministers,

We appreciate the opportunity to share the “KMUSA Story” with you, and let you know something about who we are, what we believe, how we operate, and how we became members. Our lives have been significantly enhanced as the Lord has brought us together as fellow ministers and messengers of Christ and His glorious Kingdom.

When you and I pass from this earth, one supreme question will stand. That question is—what did we do that really mattered; did I live as a “change-agent” letting Christ’s transforming power work through me? In order to live a life that encourages us to answer a question like this, we need co-laborers in our journey in Christ who are asking themselves these kinds of questions. Kingdom Ministries USA is about finding those kinds of individuals who are committed to living that kind of life in the context of Christ’s spiritual family.

We recognize that God is building many significant organizations, and speaking and doing wonderful, life-changing things through other individuals and groups within the Body of Christ. However, our responsibility in KMUSA is to follow His specific purposes for us in our generation. Our testimony is that it is a delight to be joined together in Christ as we do these things! If you and those you lead have not yet found your place of belonging in the larger Body of Christ, may Father speed you on your journey. Who knows, that journey might lead in our direction.

For King and Kingdom,



Randy Howard

We are called to build relationally through sons and daughters of the Kingdom. (Matthew 13:35)

A Brief Historical Sketch of Kingdom Ministries USA

We believe that one's past is often a stepping-stone into one's future. Our history is simply stated: We were formed when a number of us who were leading churches said, "Lord, where can we find other leaders who desire to share their lives together, and who can "go to war together" in the spiritual battles we all face as leaders?" We have found the answer to that question in Christ and in each other.

Originally formed to serve a small group of West Coast churches, KMUSA now has members throughout the United States. The network has a wide leadership base, which operates through an Executive Council and an At Large Advisory Team, made up of senior leadership from the various parts of the nation. Believing in local fellowship and local problem solving, and unwilling to unduly centralize our organization, we focus the majority of our fellowship functions and leadership training within regions.

Kingdom Ministries USA is a tax-exempt, religious corporation. It is a "Group Organization," which means that, for tax-exempt or corporate purposes, it has the ability to offer its tax-exempt status to other organizations anywhere in the United States if the group needs that service and complies with the status.

The Mission Statement of KMUSA

Kingdom Ministries International is a relationally-based spiritual family within the Body of Christ, composed of local churches and ministries who have submitted themselves together to glorify God and His Kingdom, serving His purposes in discipling the nations until Christ returns, and glorifying Him together throughout eternity.

We are committed to serve Christ and one another by submitting to God's Word, becoming the ekklesia, building relationally and in mutual accountability, developing and releasing the engiftedness within those we serve, evangelizing those who do not know Christ, confronting the world system with God's demands for justice, and in all things, seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

The Three Primary Distinctives KMI has been Called to Steward Are:

1. The Kingdom of God.
2. Covenant Relationships.
3. Discipleship.

Our Purpose...Living as “Change-Agents” for God

In a fallen world, transformation in Christ is the ultimate issue. Kingdom Ministries USA submits to God, imploring Him to grant us the ability to carry His transforming life and power to all we touch and influence.

Our Building Principles...

1. We are committed to build local churches and ministries based upon these foundational principles:
2. God builds relationally through “sons and daughters of the kingdom” who aspire to inherit His heart.
3. Believers must be accountable to the scriptures, the Holy Spirit, and one another in order to fulfill and reveal Christ’s love and Kingdom.
4. Our lives, our families, and our ministries must be living the gospel we preach, while we strategically build for future generations.
5. The Body of Christ is called to model God’s love justice, righteousness, and community as a light for the nations.

Our Common Theological Commitments...

This network and membership therein, assert the following major tenets of the Christian faith as conditions of membership and operation, knowing that two cannot walk together unless they agree...

1. A commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in every sphere of human life and activity, and the establishment of His Kingdom rule and will as the primary focus of the Gospel we proclaim.
2. A commitment to the governing rule of the Bible as the sole infallible test of human life, all truth and all practice in terms of Church structure, theological issues, human morality, and human government.
3. A commitment to hold God's Word as the standard for ourselves, the church-at-large, society, and all of man's values, by challenging and imploring everyone to live by every word which God has spoken.
4. A commitment to the governing and guiding work of the Holy Spirit, and our need to be personally and continuously filled and energized by Him.
5. A commitment to the historic creeds and confessions of the Church as embodied in the examples of the Apostles' and the Nicene Creeds.
6. A commitment to biblical, spiritual accountability is essential, not only for order and peace in the local church, but also for the ability to successfully complete meaningful talks with excellence.

Our Common Relational Commitment

We believe that both our walking together in Christ's work, and our responsibility to those we teach and serve, is built upon a commitment to help produce these attributes in one another...

1. An intimacy with God that is reflected by our intimacy with one another.
2. A biblical worldview of all of life.
3. A voluntary yielding to Christ of our own personal agendas and the living out of the principle of Christ's cross as the operating standard in our lives.
4. A ministry that proceeds from biblical character.
5. A leadership style that serves others by recognizing and helping to release in them their God-given personal destiny and ministry.
6. A recognition that, while some goals and directions may develop out of corporeity, responsibility for those goals rests with us in the Lord personally.
7. A discipleship life-style that presses us into being in training "daily" before the Lord.

The Power of Relationship and Network

Networking is the key to spiritual progress beyond our individual capabilities. The other word used for net in Mark 1:16 is “*amphiblestron*,” which literally means, “*throwing around*.” It is derived from the two words *amphi*, which means around, as in *amphi* theatre and *ballo*, which means to throw. A small net was cast over the shoulder of the fisherman and allowed to spread out before made to sink by weights. Unless we see the weightiness or seriousness of networking, we will not be able to sink the nets, lower them for the catch, or get to the depths where the fish are.

“WE CANNOT HAVE SHALLOW RELATIONSHIPS AND EXPECT GREAT RESULTS”

There has to be depth of relationship, not mere association with a group, but the release of the dynamics of a sense of belonging to a true spiritual family where the one is willing to lay down his life for the other. The kind of love this world knows little of, the kind of love and commitment Jesus said we would become known for. The kind of love God displayed by giving His only begotten Son to those who believe in Him. Depth of relationship demands sacrifice as well as belief. We need to believe that what we are busy with, in networking, is actually the perfect will of God for all concerned.

The spreading of nets is normally used for subtle devices of enemies as in *Psalms 9:15, Proverbs 9:12, Isaiah 51:20*. It signifies the figure of one exhausted with ineffectual attempts to release himself. Being caught in a net represents the inevitable vengeance of God in *Lamentations 1:13* and *Ezekiel 12:13*. But in a positive sense, it reveals the grace of God to draw people into a place of safety, after having exhausted themselves trying to do everything by themselves. The inevitable becomes a blessing, not a curse. **The synergy of networking creates the mutual ability of accomplishing much more as a team than one could as an individual.** We even use this synergistic method to develop leadership teams and ministry teams so that we have much better results than one man seeking to promote his own ministry.

Denominations: A denomination comes from the word denominator, which is the common number below the line in a vulgar fraction, or divisor. It is a name applicable to any individual or class or sect. It is used to reduce yards, feet and inches to a common denominator. The name of a religious group that gives it distinction from other groups is also referred to as a denomination. It is based on having a common denominator faith. In other words, we can all agree on some basic issues and that is as far as we are prepared to go. You can see how long that would last in the unfolding of the purposes of God, which is always in a progressive state. Churches who decide that this is what we will believe and preach and adhere to become stifled and stiff and then have to defend their constitution and their denomination when

the cloud of God's glory has moved on from where they began. It is only natural that they would attack the new move onwards with God, for they are being exposed as being "fossilized" and obsolete.

It is natural that the Roman Catholic Church had to attack Luther for exposing their deadness and their dominance of the people by keeping the people away from the truth. In the same way, every other move of God was criticized by the previous move. The Jews did not want to know that there was a New Testament based upon better promises. That is why Jesus and the apostles were martyred. Today the moves of God come in such quick succession that unless one is committed to change, you can hardly keep up with what is happening. When a woman is close to childbirth, the contractions are compacted within a short space of time. It is extremely difficult for either a denomination or a ministerial fellowship to remain flexible. Every time they have to change or adapt, it is a major obstacle and eventually the effort becomes too great for them and they determine to settle in some acceptable comfort zone where all are in agreement. This is the reason why there are always great exoduses from traditional groups when God does a new thing. Pharaoh still doesn't want the people of God to go out and worship Him freely. That is why God is still in the business of raising up Moses'.

There is a distinct difference between a denomination, a fellowship and a network. The dynamics of networking are still being discovered and we learn as we commit to it step by step. Both denominations as well as ministerial fellowships have always had the Roman Catholic pyramid structure as their basis, whereas the network has not changed: it is still in ministerial fellowship. You do not make oranges into peaches by changing the name. The reason why networks are emerging as the new standard for co-operating in the kingdom activities of the church is because the old paradigms of denomination and fellowship among ministers has become obsolete and outdated. Christians have a special privilege to have fellowship with one another. Light and darkness cannot mix or have fellowship, but those who walk in the light can have fellowship. Basically, it is two fellowships in a ship, heading the same way and experiencing the same storms until the destination is reached. It is rather exclusive and it is difficult for one fellowship to fellowship with another fellowship. But a network can network with another network. One denomination cannot mix with another. It is two distinctly different identities.

"IN NETWORKING, ONE LOOKS FOR RELATIONSHIP POTENTIAL"

It has to be a two way street. Paul says I have to impart some spiritual gift to you and to be refreshed by you. It works both ways. It has to be mutually beneficial for it to be a network. It is not from the top down, being dominated and controlled. It is not merely a horizontal fellowship that has no substance when there is a crisis, either. It is both vertical and horizontal simultaneously. There is submission to authority and accountability, but at the same time there is opportunity to give input and to be recognized

for who you are and not to be measured with human measures such as the size of achievement before promotion. Self worth is part of a network and individuality is accepted, whereas in a denomination total confirmation is required. Fellowships normally are held together through compromise. Okay, we are definitely not in agreement concerning the baptism issues; so let us agree not to bring up controversial issues in our fellowship, for the sake of fellowship. Such unity is fake unity for unity of faith is centered around the truth and not around compromise.

It is something worth sacrificing for and worth laying down one's life for others. It also has the dynamic of constant change built up into it. It promises growth and new revelations are welcome as long as it lines up with the Word of God. There is a great need for cities, regions and states to establish relational networks in which:

1. Ministers can come together in united prayer so hearts can be activated by the Holy Spirit to fulfill the Great Commission of Evangelism and Discipling Nations.
2. To see key leaders help provide a way for ministers to move past "Divine Appointments" into future "Divine Connections" for the glory of God.
3. To see a higher calling in our local region fulfilled. Not just having an association but where personal renewal goals are a priority in which accountability, transparency, relatability and humility can thrive among fellow ministers.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

(Matthew 6:33)

Vision Statement

Kingdom Ministries USA is a network of relationally connected churches and ministries that exists to relate around common values, share insight into common vision, work together in common ventures for the purpose of encouraging the Body of Christ, equipping the local Church and unveiling the Kingdom of God throughout the nations.

The Benefits of KMUSA

KMUSA benefits the church and ministry by:

- Helping them to establish meaningful covenant relationships with like-minded leaders.
- Providing resources to enhance the life and ministry of the local church and connected ministries.
- Providing a sense of covering and accountability for the main leaders.
- Providing for the rejuvenation and refreshing of battle weary leaders.
- Giving each ministry a sense of connection to a larger network of churches and ministries with a global missions vision.

KMUSA benefits churches and ministries by assisting their leaders, by giving them a sense of national and international identity, by providing a sense of security in times of difficulty, and by exposing churches and ministries to others that will build what they are building.

Autonomy with Accountability

Local church autonomy is a foundation stone for KMUSA. Because we are a relational network of churches and ministries, there is no organizational control! This does not mean that there is the absence of structure and strategy. The structure that exists is limited and fluid while the strategy is progressive and inclusive. Never will these two be imposed upon any church or ministry though everyone is encouraged to walk together with common values and common vision in common ventures.

In spite of the fact that KMUSA does not subscribe to organizational control, it does recognize the need that leaders have for a sense of spiritual family and identity. There is a need to belong to something greater than oneself. There is a need for committed relationships with like-minded ministries who can be a source of strength and a resource to them in time of need. There is a need for accountability to someone you can trust.

KMUSA is just that for many leaders. When they come into KMUSA, they find new friends. They find spiritual brothers and sisters, and, at the same time, they find spiritual fathers and mothers who can provide wisdom and counsel in times of need. They enter into a relationship where they can watch over one another in a loving and caring way.

Covering without Control

As a relational network, the nature of KMUSA is apostolic. This means that KMUSA is a covering body only in so far as it provides a context for spiritual relationship and oversight in a balanced fashion without having any official or legal control over any leader or church. However, these relationships are voluntary and unofficial and are certainly not intended to replace the legal and official authority of the local church.

Unity without Uniformity

Every network of ministries is distinct because of a common heritage, spiritual belief system or focus. Even as the Children of Israel in biblical times were all one people of God and yet had distinct tribes, so it is with the Body of Christ today. From God's perspective, there is only one Church. It includes all believers living and dead all over the world who have distinguished themselves by their separation unto the covenants of God through faith.

However, within the family of God there are smaller groupings of people and leaders that God has brought together based on a common vision and understanding of God's Eternal Purpose. This is similar to the tribes within the nation of Israel. Each tribe has its own distinct characteristic based on a common heritage and root system.

In biological terms, the human race includes everyone. However, within this race of mankind there are families of people who have a common genetic history and thus a certain biological compatibility. They share a common thread (DNA) in their biological makeup that has a great deal to do with how they will actually express themselves. Every family has a "family resemblance".

KMUSA has certain things in its spiritual "DNA" that make it distinct. Much of this is integrally related to the history of KMUSA and the belief system of those who founded the ministry. When someone joins KMUSA, they join a spiritual family with a DNA code that is vital to its ability to fulfill the express purposes of the network.

THE FOUNDATIONS FOR COMMITMENT

The Bible makes it very clear that if two are going to walk together, there must be an underlying agreement (Amos 3:3). If people are going to come into a covenant relationship that is genuine and meaningful there must be a strong foundation for that relationship to be built upon. Covenant relationship in KMUSA is built upon four pillars.

Common Values

It is important that our value system is rooted in the Word of God and the life of Christ! A commitment to these is essential if effective ministry is to be carried out in the world. This means that KMUSA stands for the principle of servant leadership that is demonstrated by personal integrity, moral purity, financial responsibility and ethical standards of Christian conduct. Our core ministry values are reflected in the following statements:

THE COVENANT: All interaction with God begins with recognizing and embracing the non-negotiable terms through which God enters relationship with man and leads man to His desired end.

THE KINGDOM: All increase in God begins with seeking and yielding to the rule and the realm of God's governmental way as expressed in the various jurisdictions of life.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT: All life in God is found in the freedom of the Holy Spirit mediating His life through the gifts of the Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit and the daily leadership of the Spirit.

COMMUNITY: All corporate fellowship in God is found in the context of the redeemed community who are fitted and framed together as each joint supplies the Body for the building up of itself in love.

DISCIPLESHIP: All training in God is done with the intent of making disciples of Christ who are willing to be equipped in the knowledge of the Son until they reach the measure which belongs to the fullness of Jesus Christ.

GENERATIONAL JOINING: All generations in Christ are to be joined in heart for the pursuit of God's future, assuring the transfer of truth and faith one generation to the next.

TRANSFORMING OF SOCIAL STRUCTURES: All missional growth in God is to include the salvation of individuals and the transformation of social structures through the authority of God's word and the intentional outreach of Christ's Church.

Common Views

We rejoice in the spread of the Gospel across the world and urge all Christians to commit themselves to this task, avoiding unnecessary competition and co-operating, wherever possible, in the completion of Christ's kingdom of peace, justice and holiness, to the glory of the one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We adhere to both the Nicene Creed and the Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith as follows:

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

Evangelical Alliance Statements

- The one true God who lives eternally in three persons — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
- The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God—fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
- The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgment.
- The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ — born of the Virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.

- The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.
- The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruits of our resurrection; his ascension to the Father, and his reign and mediation as the only Savior of the world.
- The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.
- The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.
- The Church is the body of Christ both local and universal with the fundamental belief in the priesthood of all believers is given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.
- The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfill the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgment, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

Evangelical Relationships Commitment

The Evangelical Relationships Commitment is a modern re-wording of the eight Practical Resolutions originally agreed at the 1846 Assembly that launched the Evangelical Alliance. They were written to guide members in their relationships with other Christians. We hope they will help you as you build good positive working relationships in all areas of your Christian life.

Affirmations

- We welcome as Christian brothers and sisters all who experience the grace of new birth, bringing them to that fear and knowledge of God that and mutual encouragement to all who serve Christ as Lord, not least to those who conscientiously prefer not to be identified with the same churches, alliances or councils as ourselves.
- We respect the diversity of Culture, experience and doctrinal understanding that God grants to His people and acknowledge that some differences over issues not essential to salvation may well remain until the end of time.

Actions

- We urge all Christians to pray as Christ prayed, that we may be one in the Father and the Son, and so by the Spirit promote personal relationships of love, peace and fellowship within the Body of Christ, His universal Church.

- We encourage all Christians earnestly to contend for biblical truth, since only as we are open to learn from others and yield fuller obedience to the truth will we be drawn closer to Christ and to each other.
- We call on each other, when speaking or writing of those issues of faith or practice that divide us, to acknowledge our own failings and the possibility that we ourselves may be mistaken, avoiding personal hostility and abuse, and speaking the truth in love and gentleness.
- We owe it to each other, in making public comment on the alleged statements of our fellow Christians, first to confer directly with them and to establish what was actually intended. Then to commend what we can, to weigh the proportional significance of what we perceive to be in error, and to put a charitable construction on what is doubtful, expressing all with courtesy, humility and graciousness.

Common Vision

KMUSA is a network of relationally connected churches and ministries that exists to relate around common values, share insight into common vision, work together in common ventures for the purpose of encouraging the Body of Christ, equipping the local Church and unveiling the Kingdom of God throughout the nations.

We are committed to serve Christ and one another by submitting to God's Word, becoming the ekklesia, building relationally and in mutual accountability, developing and releasing the gifts within those we serve, evangelizing those who do not know Christ, confronting the world system with God's demands for justice, and in all things, seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Common Ventures

On the statue of John Know, it says, *"The reformation that John Knox began started a spiritual revolution in the heart of man."*

Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, George Whitefield and John Knox are just a few people that God used to bring about reformation in times past, changing the spiritual climate and cultures.

Reformation can be defined as a progressive release of revelation designed to re-establish the community, social and government order, that it may corporately demonstrate the image of God through the gospel of Christ.

Jesus said in John 2:19, *"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."* In this scripture, Jesus is speaking of raising up the body. Hosea 6:2 says, *"After two days, He will revive us; on the third day, He will*

raise us up, that we may live in His sight." I believe that more than a third-day reformation mindset is rising. I believe revelation concerning resurrection's power within the entire being is rising and will continue to rise in the common ventures of our God.

COMMITMENT TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Giving

Every ministry must receive support if it is going to be able to fulfill its vision. Many church organizations demand much from their members. Some demand a tithe of the churches general fund for operating the administrative aspects of the organization. Some demand that all missionary moneys be sent to the central office and that all missionary activity is to be directed through that office.

KMUSA highly encourages its members (churches and ministries) to give into the cause and objectives of the network. A 2% contribution from each church or ministry's budget is recommended. These contributions will build up a financial base for trans-local ministers to give input into churches and ministries. It will also facilitate the office administration, operational oversight, and consistent, regular communications through newsletters and additional resources. It will also enable training for all participating churches and ministries through conferences, workshops, seminars and forums. The network can support joint ventures such as a national and international mission, city reaching projects, church planting, etc. The funds that are collected are consistent with the actual costs incurred to provide the express purposes of the network.

May the God of heaven prosper us in this task of establishing a network that will supply all the resources needed to strengthen RELATIONSHIP: authentic family; EQUIPPING: true support; and MISSION: an opportunity to make a contribution to something greater than ourselves.

Partnership

Partnership is more than a decision—it's a call. Your commitment to take a vibrant unlimited move of God to the nations multiplies our effectiveness and when any kind of victory is experienced due to our combined efforts as partners, everyone partakes in the blessings...this includes you!

As with any true spiritual partnership, you have every right to expect the anointing that comes from Jesus and flows through this ministry to be upon you and flow through you. As a network member, we

commit to pray for you, communicate consistently, provide resources that will strengthen your Christian walk, family, church and ministry.

CONNECTION WITH KMUSA

What is the process of entering into relationship with KMUSA?

Relationship with KMUSA is a process. If KMUSA is really going to be all that it purposes to be, relationship must involve more than merely signing up, putting ones name on a list and mailing regular checks.

If KMUSA sounds like something that you would like to be a part of, ask yourself these questions:

- Do I feel that I could support and exemplify the cause and purpose of KMUSA?
- Do I feel a need to relate to like-minded ministries who are seeking to build a glorious church in these days?
- Do I want to relate in fellowship with and have mutual accountability to other leaders with strong convictions?
- Do I want to join efforts with complimentary ministries to see God accomplish His purpose to extend His Kingdom into the entire world?

If the answer to these questions is yes, you are definitely ready to relate with KMUSA.

Spiritual Steps

On the spiritual side, relationship with KMUSA starts with the leading of the Holy Spirit in the heart of the minister to do so. It is important for the sake of covenant relationship that every member of the Network feels that the Head of the Church has grafted him or her in. In addition, there must be a natural process, much like a courtship, to determine if the minister is compatible with the vision and direction of the Network. The process of relationship begins in the heart of the minister applicant himself.

Practical Steps

1. *Expose the church to KMUSA.*

This is simply making churches aware that KMUSA exists so they can begin the process of “looking in”.

2. *Educate the church to KMUSA’s values and vision.*

This stage is when the church looking in begins to understand the “spiritual DNA” of the network by learning its vision and being versed in its values. This is the level where the “specifics” are learned and where questions are asked and answered.

3. *Enhance the church’s relationship with KMUSA’s team and family.*

Because KMUSA is built upon God ordained relationships, this step is critical. Everything rises or falls based upon the relational “net” that is built within the network. The network cannot degenerate into organization and system. Relational integrity and strength are the essence of what KMUSA is built upon. Therefore, churches and ministries need to commit time to building relationship with the KMUSA family. This, of course, would begin by getting to know members of the apostolic team. If one or more members of the “team” speak into the life of church at some point, the local leadership needs to develop a strong confidence in their gift and call. Some of the ways this can be facilitated would be:

- Attend conferences held and sponsored by KMUSA
- Invite members of the team to the local church to meet people and leadership
- Participate in mission opportunities
- Pursue personal relationship through correspondence, phone calls, e-mail etc.

4. *Establish the church’s level of relational commitment.*

Once the church and its leadership have learned what KMUSA is all about and have spent time getting to know the KMUSA family, it would then make a decision as to what level of involvement and relationship it would choose with KMUSA.

- The Process

- The church and/or ministry must make an official request of KMUSA to be considered for Covenant Level involvement.
- A follow-up time will be planned whereby a core team member will meet with the leadership of the church and/or ministry.
- The church and/or ministry would then provide a written letter of confirmation of desire to become a relational member.
- The KMUSA core team will receive those who are to be recognized at this level. Ministry will begin to be carried out together.

- The Plan

- The church and/or ministry participate with others jointly in the financial responsibility to carry out the vision of the network. The financial resources cover a variety of areas: administration, training, and missions, as well as other necessary events/projects for the advancement of the Kingdom.
- The church and/or ministry participate with others jointly in the prayer/intercessory strategy for the development of the church and global harvest. This is further accomplished by providing people resources (prophets, teachers, intercessors, disciplers, etc.) to form ministry teams wherever needs may arise.
- The church and/or ministry have top priority in carrying out the vision of the network. It also has top priority when assistance is needed whether it is in difficulty or development. Covenant means that we walk through every trial and test together. Counsel, accountability, and instruction are provided, though there is an understanding that final decisions are the responsibility of the local leadership.

These levels of relationship can change as the church or its leadership changes. A church may move from a “contact” relationship to “covenant” or visa versa. Because churches are living, breathing and changing spiritual entities, these relationships will most definitely be in flux over the span of time for numerous reasons. Obviously, those who stay plugged in at the covenant level for the long haul will facilitate greater strength and stability to what God would desire to do through KMUSA.

5. *Express the church's level of relational commitment.*

Once the leadership of the local church/ministry decides what level of relationship they feel led to cooperate, then the church/ministry would tangibly express that commitment accordingly. The most significant expressions are found at the covenant level.

6. *Encourage other churches to "look in" as the Spirit leads.*

Churches/ministries that are connected to KMUSA will be able to encourage other churches/ministries that they are relationally connected with to take a look at KMUSA and share how this network might be of benefit to them. This brings the circle back up to the start to exposing churches/ministries of KMUSA's existence. Let it be totally clear that KMUSA has NO INTENTION of bringing in churches/ministries from other groups or denominations. This will happen from time to time as the Spirit connects the heart of churches/ministries already connected to something else in the KMUSA family. This is not to be the norm, however, and KMUSA would not and will not endorse any church, ministry or leader that would aggressively try to pull churches/ministries out of their connections to come join this family. There are many independent, disconnected churches that have no spiritual covering and are praying that God would connect them with a spiritual family. These are the churches that KMUSA especially is trying to meet a need that is present with the larger Body of Christ.

Obviously, the time frame between the stages in this cycle of involvement will vary according to the church, but normally, all of these aspects will be found in one way or another as churches seriously choose to relate in some way with KMUSA.

MODEL FOR SPIRITUAL OVERSIGHT

Apostolic Model

What is Apostolic Oversight?

It will be easier to see what apostolic oversight is by first stating what it is not. In First Thessalonians 2:1 the apostle Paul said, “*OUR COMING TO YOU WAS NOT IN VAIN*”. The word “vain” expresses the hollowness of anything, Paul was saying their work was not void of content or power. This word could also be translated “empty-handed”. Paul was saying, “*We didn’t come to take something away from you but to bring you something*”. This is the heart of apostolic oversight. It has nothing to do with what the apostle “receives”, it has everything to do with what apostolic oversight brings to the church and/or ministry.

Apostolic Oversight:

- *Is not a means for personal kingdom building.* The issue is not quantity— “How many people do you have in your network or organization?” The issue is the quality of care for the members and love for the saints.
- *Is not primarily about money, it is not “a pretext for greed”* (I Thessalonians 2:5). Paul denies that he ever used his ministry as a secret means of enriching himself. Apostolic oversight is not multi-level marketing where all resources work their way to the top.
- *Is not about human glory* — “I’m Apostle so and so”. Paul said, “**WE HAVE NEVER SOUGHT HONOR FROM MEN, FROM YOU OR FROM ANYBODY ELSE**” (I Thessalonians 2:6a Moffat). Paul here is repudiating personal ambition. Paul never used his preaching to gain the honor, recognition and approval that men give.
- *Is not about being in “authority” over a church or ministry.* Paul actually did have authority but he never abused it. “Even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority” (I Thessalonians 2:6b) The only authority that exists in the church or God-ordained ministry is “Christ’s authority”. True apostles are not authoritarian or controlling. Authority is always to be used for the benefit of those under it never for the personal benefit of those exercising it. True apostolic oversight has to do with being a “spiritual father”. Seeing those under covering as a father sees his children, intent on training his children according to their individual needs. Caring for children is tiring work. Paul said, “*You remember brethren, our labor and toil, laboring day and night*” (1 Thessalonians 2:9). True apostles faithfully proclaim “The Gospel of God” without alteration or substitution. Apostolic oversight is foundational. Paul said, “*I have laid a foundation and another builds on it*” (1 Corinthians 3:10). The

foundation of a building is out of sight but it is the key to stability and the growth of the structure built on it. Many churches and ministries today have faulty foundations and as a result they continually struggle with the same problems. Jesus Christ himself” is the Chief Cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:20). Everything the church is and does has to be rightly related to Christ, because ministry belongs to Him.

The Benefits of Apostolic Covering

There is no reason for a church to have an apostolic covering if the church doesn't benefit from the relationship. If the only one receiving benefits is the apostle, something is wrong. Following are some areas that a church and its leaders should benefit from apostolic covering:

Counsel

In vision, helping to define it, refine it and articulate it.

In doctrine, to help deal with doctrinal issues confronting a ministry or causing division.

In discipline, this is especially helpful in difficult cases to avoid personal attacks against leadership when a member needs discipline.

Protection

This is to provide an atmosphere of safety and security for both the leader and members.

- To protect the people— if a leader falls into error or sin or becomes dictatorial, the members know they have someone to appeal to, helping to avoid a ministry breakdown.
- To protect the leader— the leader cannot be arbitrarily removed without the involvement of apostolic oversight. This protects against false accusations.

Accountability

Having apostolic covering gives the leader someone to be accountable to, someone to talk to, relate to and just sound off to.

Confirmation

Apostolic covering can be used to confirm and ordain key leaders in the ministry. Having someone else to interview and confirm candidates for ministry can provide an objective view that is often missing in independent churches and ministries.

Encouragement

Visits by apostolic covering can bring encouragement and blessing to the ministry.

Commitment

Apostolic covering doesn't work unless there is a level of commitment by a leader and ministry. Every leader knows the value and importance of commitment in the organization. For an apostolic model to work, we have come to realize that there are some steps a leader and the organization need to make to fully benefit from apostolic oversight.

Practical Steps

Begin to build relationships with members of the KMUSA team.

Talk to your leaders and the ministry about having apostolic oversight.

Have someone from the team teach on being an apostolic ministry.

Four Positive Benefits We Experience As Members of Kingdom Ministries USA

We believe that belonging to KMUSA should provide accountability for the ministry leader, his leadership team, and his church in at least four essential ways...

1. Access to other experienced builders who can help evaluate, strengthen, and correctly build the foundations of the local church and effective ministry.
2. Resource sharing, which allows believers to both contribute to and draw from a wide range of other ministries, gifts, and resources.
3. A place of appeal and input relative to doctrinal issues and conflict-resolution, which believers are otherwise left to walk through in an unplanned or limited fashion on their own.
4. An overview of the "battlefield issues" from a global perspective, and the opportunity to implement local vision in the context of the Holy Spirit's work in our generation with other like-minded leaders.

Kingdom Ministries USA: A Structural Overview

KMUSA MEMBERS

THE KMUSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Randy Howard, Executive Director

David Shay, Board Member

Dennis Cole, Board Member

Thank you for pursuing this information on Kingdom Ministries International. If we can answer more specific questions or assist you in joining us, please see the back page for our address and phone number.