



Associated Christian Ministries

**MEMBERS & ASSOCIATES
HANDBOOK
2012**

Established 1989



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Introduction to our Handbook

Dear Friends in Ministry

ACM is a network of pastors, ministries and churches that exists to help our members more effectively do the work that God has called them to do.



We believe that ministers and churches that are free from selfish ambition and self interest and that demonstrate a sincere love for God and God's love for people can greatly influence the destiny of our nation.

It is wonderful that the denominationalism that has separated us for so long is being broken down. Pastors from many churches and denominational backgrounds are coming together to pray, to fellowship and to work together. They are starting to see that there is actually one church in their city or locality.

ACM desires to maintain the benefits of being a denomination but to leave behind the divisionary aspects that have separated us in the past.

Those who are part of ACM receive a membership card, marriage credentials (as applicable) and a number of other benefits of membership. ACM (Associate) membership is for those ministers who want to remain part of their own denomination or network but still desire to have a connection with ACM for its fellowship and other ministry benefits.

As you read through this handbook I trust that you will be able to decide whether ACM or ACM (Associate) membership is appropriate for you and your church or ministry.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself or one of our executive members for further information about our network of ministers and churches.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Kerridge
National Chairman



ACM Leadership

1. The leadership of ACM follows the example of “servant-leadership” by seeing its responsibility to serve its members and not to exercise authority over them.
2. ACM functions under the leadership of a council of elders.
3. The Council of Elders is made up of a National Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, a Public Officer and all the senior ministers of ACM churches.
4. A National Executive is elected by the Council of Elders to fulfil the duties and responsibilities of the Council of Elders. Appointments are for three years after which each person automatically steps down but can be available for re-election.
5. The National Executive is made up of the National Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Officer, State Chairmen and other members considered beneficial to the effective running of ACM.
 - For ease of administrative matters a secretary/treasurer may be appointed by the chairman with the approval of the executive.
 - If he/she is not a member of the council of elders he/she may attend executive meetings as required by the chairman but does not have voting rights.
6. It is accepted that all ACM churches are governed by their own pastor and elders as set out in the New Testament.
7. The advice and counsel of the ACM National Executive may be sought by a member church’s eldership and if necessary the National Chairman may be asked by the Executive to address a meeting of an ACM church’s eldership.
8. We recognize that within a fellowship such as ours there are various people who you will meet who will be able to help you with many matters of leadership and ministry. No individual has a monopoly on all leadership and ministerial matters. Our aim is to make known to our members all the different people who can help us in so many different ways.



ACM National Executive

*Richard Kerridge; Graham Nelson; Paul O'Sullivan; John Meadth; Rick Burley;
Lyle Slinger :David Seagratt*

National Office

Chairman: Pastor Richard Kerridge
Address: Liberty Christian Church
 720 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster, VIC 3108, Australia
Phone: (03) 9840 6994
Fax: (03) 9840 6995
Email: pastor@libertychurch.org.au or richard@acm.org.au

NSW State Office

Chairman: Pastor Rick Burley
Address: New Beginnings Christian Church
 P.O.Box 180, Wallsend, NSW 2287, Australia
Phone/Fax: (02) 4955 8989
E-Mail: nbcci@bigpond.com

Victoria State Office

Chairman: Reverend Peter Owen
Address: Parkside Ministries International
 St Johns Road, Wonga Park, Victoria 3115
Phone/Fax: (03) 9722 2897
Email: pastor@parksidechurch.org.au

Queensland State Office

Chairman: Pastor Lyle Slinger
Address: South Burnett Ministries
 2 Grant Ave, Kingaroy Heights, QLD 4610, Australia
Phone/Fax: (07) 4162 5824
Email: southburmin@burcom.com.au



ACM National Executive Members

Pastor Richard Kerridge (National Chairman)

Richard is Senior Minister of *Liberty Christian Church* in Doncaster, Victoria. He is chairman of ACMI (Associated Christian Ministers International) and is the chairman of ACMI - Africa Zone. Richard has pioneered a number of churches including *Christian Fellowship Centre* in Albury and *Liberty Christian Church*. He has a heart for unity in the body of Christ helping to train and equip pastors for effective leadership. He has a passion for overseas missions and especially Africa.

Pastor Graham Nelson

Graham is the Senior Pastor of *Life Ministry Centre (LMC)* in Chirnside Park, Victoria. He has been part of the ministry team of *LMC* for over 20 years and 9 years ago took over the role of Senior Pastor. *LMC* is situated on a large property which includes *Oxley College*, one of Melbourne's largest Christian colleges. Graham is on the Board of *ACL (Australian Christian Lobby)*.

Pastor Paul O'Sullivan

Paul is the Senior Pastor of *Northern Beaches Christian Centre (NBCC)* in Terrey Hills, NSW. Paul was the instigator of establishing ACM in NSW. He has been an influential leader in the body of Christ for many years and established a large Christian School in Terrey Hills. *NBCC* has planted several outreach churches in New South Wales over the last 20 years.

Pastor Peter Owen

Peter is the Senior Pastor of *Parkside International Ministries* in Wonga Park, VIC. He and his wife Dawn have been loyal and committed members of ACM for a number of years. Peter is also on the ACMI Executive. He and his church are extremely mission-centred and have been an integral part of the development of ACMI in Mozambique. He brings a great deal of experience and wisdom to our executive.

Pastor Lyle Slinger

Lyle is the Senior Pastor of *South Burnett Ministries* in Kingaroy Heights, QLD. He has established an excellent church with a great vision for the local area and overseas' missions. Each year Lyle and his church run successful ACMI Leaders' conferences in Zimbabwe as well as a significant Prophetic Conference in Kingaroy. He is the ACM Queensland Chairman and sits on the ACMI Executive.

Dr. Rick Burley

Rick is the Senior Pastor of *New Beginnings Christian Church* in Newcastle, NSW. He has a real heart for unity in his city and has a significant ministry to people in need. As the newest member of the executive he brings a whole lot of enthusiasm and fresh ideas to the table. Rick is the ACM New South Wales Chairman.

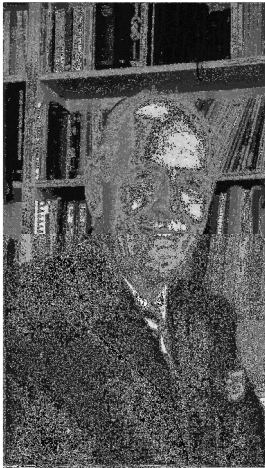
Pastor David Seagratt

David is the Senior Pastor of *Inverell Christian Centre* in Inverell, NSW. He has been a strong & loyal member of ACM since the early days. David is a man of great integrity with a strong Christian character with whom we are happy to have as part of our ACM Executive.



HISTORY - ACM and ACMI

Pastor Hal Oxley, founder of Life Ministry Centre - a large charismatic church in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne, felt God encourage him to plant outreach churches from Life Ministry Centre, around Victoria and New South Wales.



Between 1979 and 1990, LMC saw 23 outreach churches begin. Hal Oxley mentored each of the pastors, and as each church was strong enough, they autonomous.

Fellowship was encouraged between the ministers, and in 1989, it became obvious that there would be a benefit in establishing a body recognised in Canberra, with the ability of providing both covering and fellowship for the ministers, and allowing for administrative needs such as Marriage Licensing. Thus began ACM (formerly ACAI).

Most of the outreach churches came under the umbrella of ACM, and their identity, whilst remaining independent and autonomous, was linked with ACM, with Hal Oxley being the founding Chairman.

Enquiries began to come from other independent churches, both in Victoria, and other states of Australia, interested in being a part of ACM, and coming under the covering of such.

A National Executive was formed to formalise and process applications. Other churches soon began joining in the fellowship.

Monthly meetings were held, and ministers from other churches and denominations started to show an interest in attending. Hal Oxley thus formed the ministers' fellowship - ACMI. This led to chapters being formed in different states around Australia and overseas. ACMI (Associated Christian Ministers International) membership was not limited to ministers from ACM churches. In Australia this has now been replaced by ACM (Associates).

An annual gathering together began and much unity within the Body of Christ was seen. Guest speakers, from both overseas and nationally, were brought in to minister to, challenge, and encourage the ministers at these annual events.

Today ACM operates as a denomination in Australia, while ACMI continues as a fellowship of ministers in other parts of the world where there are several thousand members.

Mission Vision and Aims

Helping pastors and their churches and all in ministry more effectively do what God has called them to do

Our Mission

We exist **to help pastors and their churches and all in ministry** to more effectively preach the gospel, make disciples of all nations and teach God's ways to His people so that He is glorified throughout the earth.

Our Vision

To increasingly see ACM leaders, churches and ministries as an important part of what God is doing to bring transformation to our communities, our cities, our nation and the nations of the world

Therefore our aims are:

To facilitate the godly growth, health and the success of pastors and their churches by holding conferences and local, regional and state gatherings and providing an avenue for resources that inspire, encourage, teach and equip for ministry

To provide "fathers" or mentors for pastors who are seeking or needing them

To promote love and common unity of fellowship and mutual assistance amongst ACM members and within the body of Christ

To help pastors and their churches develop a network of friends and ministries with whom they can work. This includes the recommending of ministries from within and without ACM

To assist with the provision of resources (especially through the website)

To provide scriptural covering or accountability for the ACM churches involved

To provide ACM membership, and as required, issue marriage celebrant credentials as authorized by the Australian Government.

To encourage churches to look beyond themselves and towards the needy on the mission field at home and abroad

To provide an opportunity for pastors and their churches to be involved in promoting unity and providing teaching and other resources for ministers in other nations (especially developing nations) through ACMI (Associated Christian Ministers International). ACMI is coordinated by its own elected international, zone and national councils.



ACM Website

www.acm.org.au

Connect to our website and find out more about *Associated Christian Ministries*.

It is our desire to constantly develop our resources to help our members fulfil their ministry as effectively as possible. www.acm.org.au is one place to go to discover what is happening and what is available.

Whether we like it or not things are changing very rapidly in the whole area of information technology. The world-wide-web (www) can provide a huge array of teaching materials and help for those in ministry. These days we don't need a huge library of books. If you know where to look it is out there on the internet.

We are continually developing our website and have many things we want to do to make it a more beneficial aid to our members.

At present:

We have a list of coming events, meetings and conferences

We have links to ministries that we can recommend

We have a list of the churches, pastors and ministries who are associated with ACM

We have links to our international connections such as ACMI Africa

We have reviews of books, films and other websites





ACM Membership

Psalm 133:1 "How pleasant and how good it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Steps to Becoming a Member of ACM

1. If possible you need a member of ACM to sponsor or recommend you. If this is not possible you will need to meet with a member of the executive and supply references from other acceptable ministries in your area.
2. Submit an application form (copy in this booklet—last page) with your sponsor's signature and a letter of reference and the appropriate payment. If getting the signature is not practical ask your sponsor to send the reference directly to the secretary.
 - There are different categories of membership. You will need to indicate on the application form the category for which you are applying. (See next page)
3. Post your application form to the ACM Australian National Office
4. The National Executive will consider your application and if necessary some members of the executive will interview you. You will be advised of the decision made on your application.
5. From the time of such approval and the receiving of your membership fee you will be a member.
6. If your application is approved, you will be formally received into fellowship at the next annual meeting - usually at the National Conference
7. On coming into fellowship, you will receive a membership card for your wallet and will be placed on the mailing list for ministers' letters and emails from the National Chairman.



Membership Categories and Fees

ACM Church Membership

1. ACM Church Membership includes ACM membership with Marriage Celebrant Credentials for the senior minister (Fee: \$450.00 p.a.)
 - It is required that churches have at least 30 people in regular attendance and meetings are regularly held in a public place or where the public are welcome.
 - If there are extenuating circumstances that differ from the above for good reasons these must be made very clear in any application for membership.
2. Larger ACM churches, which have numbers of pastors on staff, may apply for any one of these additional pastors to have marriage credentials if required. (\$450.00 per person p.a.)
 - We recommend that a church waits until it has four pastors on staff before applying for another minister to have marriage credentials.
 - If marriage credentials are required before there are four pastors on staff the church should provide its reasons with its application.
3. Each ACM church may apply for other pastors on staff to have ACM membership. This does not include marriage credentials. (Fee: \$200.00 per person p.a.)
4. Christian ministries (para-church organisations) that desire to be part of ACM may also apply as above.
 - For membership purposes we recognize a Christian Ministry as a full-time ministry to the body of Christ that has been proven over a number of years and is recognized for its integrity and acceptance by a large number of churches and ministers in our nation. The director of the ministry would be considered of a similar status to a senior minister of a church, but does not receive a marriage credential.
 - To receive marriage credentials such a person would need to receive it under the covering of an ACM church of which they are a member.
 - Such a ministry would be considered part of ACM and be required to receive the same covering and accountability as an ACM church.

ACM Associate Membership

1. This is for pastors or ministries from other denominations or independent churches or ministries that desire to be associated with ACM, but want to remain independent or a part of their denomination. (\$200.00)
2. Associate members receive many of the benefits of full ACM membership but are ineligible to receive marriage credentials or the covering (protection and accountability) given to ACM member churches or ministries.



STATEMENT OF FAITH

Titus 1:9 "Holding fast the faithful word"

- The divine inspiration and authority of the Holy Scripture.
- The one and living God eternally existent in three persons in unity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- The inherent corruptness of man through the fall, the necessity for repentance and the regeneration through grace and faith alone and the eternal separation from God of the finally impenitent.
- The virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death, triumphant resurrection, ascension and abiding intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Justification and sanctification of the believer at the throne of God through faith in the finished work of Christ.
- The sacraments of baptism in water and of the Lord's Supper.
- The security of the believer as he abides in Christ.
- The empowering of the believer by the Holy Spirit.
- The personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the eternal fellowship with Christ of all believers.
- Recognition of the Body of Christ as made up of all born-again, ongoing believers, regardless of denomination

