

Description and Policies of the Network

The Network is an informal connection between like-minded brethren who have linked together for fellowship, mutual edification, and the advance of the kingdom of God. The hub of the Network is the social network website located at GloriousChurch.ning.com. We encourage all members to stay in touch with one another and draw upon the valuable ministries each has to offer.

OUR FIVE PILLARS OF FELLOWSHIP

1. **Common Vision.** This means that all brethren are committed to the overarching purpose of building and supporting local assemblies that will glorify God in the last days.
2. **Integrity of Character.** This means that all brethren are committed to living by the highest standards of Christian ethics as exemplified by Jesus Christ and the early apostles.
3. **Doctrinal Compatibility.** This means that all brethren are committed to the Apostles' Doctrines and that in all areas of non-agreement they engage in brotherly discussions and will not contend to the disunity of the network.
4. **Covenant Relationships.** This means all brethren are committed to open, honest, accountable relationships with one another that are held together by the principles of agape love exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ and the members of the early church.
5. **Commitment to Biblical Elderships.** This means that all brethren are committed to the multi-pastor principles set forth in the Bible and described on the Glorious Church website.

OUR CORE VALUES

1. **The Bible:** All members of the Network agree that the Bible defines the true Christian faith and is the final authority on all matters of doctrine, practice, and polity.
2. **The Headship of Christ:** All members of the Network agree that Jesus Christ is the Chief Shepherd of every local assembly and that all assembly members are His sheep, whom He has purchased with His own blood. Within each assembly, and among all assemblies, He is to be acknowledged as the Head and thus given the preeminence in all things.

3. **The Oneness of God:** All members of the Network agree that God is one (not two or three) and that it was this self-same God who came in the flesh, lived without sin, laid down His life, was raised from the dead, ascended into heaven, and poured out the Holy Spirit. The Son of God is therefore not a secondary divine being but God the Father in flesh; and in Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily; and the name Jesus is the only name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.
4. **The Gospel of Jesus Christ:** All members of the Network agree that the gospel is the message that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, rose again on the third day, and appeared to many. The correct response to this message is to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit with the sign of speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. This new birth experience is the doorway into salvation and everlasting life.
5. **Holiness of Life:** All members of the Network agree that once a person is born again, he or she must continue on in a life of faith and holiness. While we accept that there will be some differences in how each person understands this requirement, all members agree that it includes commitment to prayer, fasting, Bible study, worship, Christian morality, modesty of dress, purity of spirit, humility of mind, honesty of words, and brotherly love.
6. **Male Headship:** All members of the Network agree that in God's order of things, man is the head of woman. This means that each man is the head of his wife and children and that only men may serve in the pastoral leadership of a local assembly.
7. **The Local Assembly:** All members of the Network agree that Jesus Christ expresses Himself in the earth through localized assemblies of His people, and that each local assembly is to be a witness to their community of the love and power of Jesus, providing deliverance, redemption, healing, restoration, spiritual growth, and equipping for ministry. Under the Headship of the Lord Jesus, each local assembly has autonomous governing authority and is not subject to any outside organizational authority. Local assemblies are connected to one another through mutual love, honor, and service.
8. **The Pastoral Eldership:** All members of the Network agree that Jesus Christ provides shepherding and oversight for each mature local assembly through an appointed team of colleagues variously called elders, overseers, or pastors. These men have equal decision-making authority but differ in spiritual gifts, capabilities, skills, responsibilities, level of financial support, and influence within the assembly. Every assembly currently being led by a solo leader should be moving toward this multi-pastor model.

9. **Servant Leadership:** All members of the Network agree that genuine Christian leadership is characterized by humility, servanthood, and sacrifice. All Christian leaders are to follow the example of Christ, who laid down his life for the sheep. They are not to be lord's over God's people but examples.

WHAT THE NETWORK IS NOT

The Network has no formal organizational structure and is not incorporated under any state laws. To us, relationship is everything! In an effort to retain the expressed character of the network over time, we are committed to the following propositions:

1. We will not incorporate.
2. We will form no denominational organization.
3. We will establish no central Bible school.
4. We will establish no central missions board.
5. We will not issue any kind of ministerial license.
6. We will not hold property in the name of the Network.
7. We will not open bank account in the name of the Network.
8. We will set no growth goals for the Network.

We believe that over time, these things tend to lead church organizations toward improper control and loss of vision. To us, each of these is a local church matter.

LEADERSHIP

For the time being, leadership of the Network is in the hands of the elders of the Carlisle assembly. As the network grows, at some point in the future a revised plan for leadership will be discussed with the members and agreed upon.

MEMBERSHIP

All applicants for membership in the Network must affirm that they are committed to our Five Pillars of Fellowship and Core Values. The local assembly of any member may be listed on the website provided it is led by either a biblical eldership or is in the process of developing and establishing a biblical eldership. It is recommended that each local assembly have its own website.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Any member of the Network may host a meeting or conference which is open to all the members of the network. The host may select the content, the speakers, and the location for the conference. The expenses for any conference must be underwritten by the host or the host assembly. Members shall not charge an admission fee as a condition for attending a conference but may receive free-will offerings to offset the costs. It is recommended that members check the events already on the website before scheduling a meeting or conference so as not to conflict with those already scheduled. All meetings and conferences that meet these criteria may be posted on the website.

All members, assemblies, and Network events will be listed on the website.