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Dear Pastor:

Greetings and blessings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Just a brief note to thank you for your inquiry regarding membership for your church in IMF. Membership for Alliance Churches was established initially in response to founding pastors who desired that their churches have their own relationship to the Fellowship. However, whether one is a founding pastor or a called and concerned pastor, we all want to know that should something unexpected happen to us, our congregations would not be left alone to work through major transitions.



Pastor Fred Kelly
IMF President

While the organization was initially established as a Fellowship for pastors and other ministers, the importance of a relationship with the local church cannot be overemphasized. International Ministerial Fellowship continually works at developing additional services designed specifically for the local church.

Our Member Churches agreement in no way infringes upon the sovereignty of the local church. We simply agree to work together in the propagation of the Gospel, church planting, missions and works of charity **as the Holy Spirit directs us.**

However, we were reminded recently of the need for additional member churches as we develop our chaplaincy programs with the Military Armed Services, Veteran's Affairs and Federal Prison System. The ratio of approved chaplain slots is related to the number of members represented by member churches of an organization, it is important that we be able to demonstrate a meaningful representation of lay people through the membership of our associated member churches.

Let me point out several ways in which your participation can be more meaningful for you and your church.

1. Draw upon the many resources available to you through the Fellowship.
2. Draw upon the churchmanship of Fellowship leaders for counsel, speaking, conferences and seminars.
3. Draw upon our foreign missions department. We presently have 100 missionaries in 51 countries that are members of IMF, and approximately 35 of them look to IMF as their missions sending agency.
4. Draw upon our Ecclesiastical Endorsing agency for military and civilian chaplains coming out of your church.
5. IMF provides upon request free internet server service and a three (3) page free internet website for member churches.
6. Area Ministry Partners Luncheons for Senior Pastors and their spouses when held in your state or area.
7. Attend the Biennial General Assembly Board dinner with other Fellowship leaders and Area Pastor Representatives.
8. Conflict mediation services are available for pastors and Board and/or congregation upon request.
9. Pastor search committee (protocol) training and services.
10. 403(b) Retirement Program for the local church.
11. Partner with IMF on short-term missions trips.
12. **Member churches nominate and have representation of no less than one-half of our Board of Directors.**

Thank you for your interest in church membership. Enclosed you will find a membership application form for Alliance Churches. For additional information, please feel free to contact Pastor Mark Marxhausen, our Director of Church Relations, at 763-571-5967.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Fred Kelly
IMF President