

VISION AND PURPOSE

NETWORK MANUAL

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A Word from the Executive Team Leader of

Kingdom Ministries USA

Dear Fellow Ministers,

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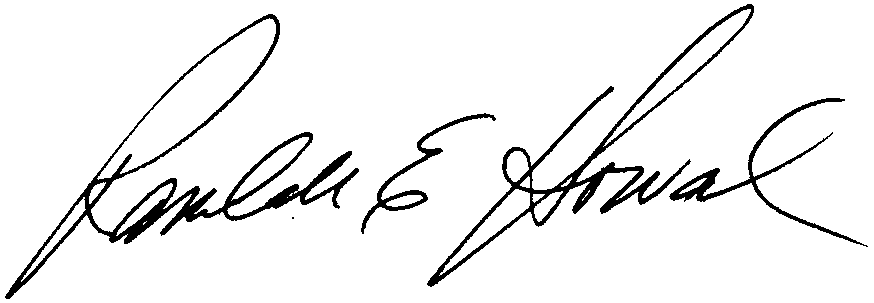
hank you for taking the time to read through this overview of Kingdom Ministries USA! Sharing our story is a joy and it is important to understand who we are, what we believe, how we operate and how one becomes a member. Those of us who have walked together have been encouraged, equipped and extended into our communities with great passion and power to see true transformation take place for the honor and glory of Christ Jesus our King. We are truly blessed and united in values, vision and ventures as fellow messengers of the grace of God and His Kingdom.

KMUSA has come to understand that there is power in community! We are stronger when we walk and work together. We are certain that there are many who desire to be effective with the Great Cultural Mandate and the Great Commission Mission but feel frustrated at times because they feel alone. We need co-laborers that serve the Lord in the context of spiritual family. KMUSA is passionate about finding those that desire this kind of life - built on relationship, engaged in equipping and in pursuit of God’s mission.

There are many wonderful organizations, networks and tribes within the Body of Christ doing great things. We simply want to do our part with those that have a heart connection because of a unique sound in KMUSA.

If you are longing for a spiritual family to walk with in revealing the Kingdom of God in this generation, then KMUSA may be for you! May our Lord give you wisdom in this pursuit and may you find a healthy fit for the journey ahead.



 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

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e 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 church leaders 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 operates through an Executive Council and an 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.

KMUSA is a tax-exempt, non-profit religious corporation.

*We are called to share the inheritance of God’s heart.*

The Mission Statement of KMUSA

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MUSA provides a place for churches, ministries and ministers to establish meaningful covenant relationships with others of like-mind, receive and share resources to enhance the life and ministry of the local church and connected ministries, to provide a sense of covering and accountability for churches and ministries, and to give each church and ministry a sense of family connection to others on mission with Christ.

KMUSA benefits churches and ministries by assisting them to fulfill their call in Christ, by helping to establish or re-establish their identity in Christ, by providing a sense of security in times of difficulty, and by interacting and engaging with churches and ministries that are building together according to the Great Cultural Mandate and the Great Commission.

The Core Values of KMUSA

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

The Building Principles of KMUSA

God Builds Relationally Through His Covenants

From the creation of man, God has consistently worked through covenants to establish and guide his relationship with all of mankind.  Covenants with Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, and Solomon foreshadowed the New Covenant where God revealed himself through the person and work of Jesus Christ, the express image of the Father.  The New Covenant provides all mankind with the opportunity to enter fully into a relationship with God and know him through the work of the Holy Spirit.  Even those who have no salvific knowledge of Christ continue in a covenant of works with the Father and are responsible for their sin.  This covenantal identity and working is what establishes the work of God in the world and obligates the nations to act for him.  In times past, God excused ignorance but now calls all mankind to repentance and a fuller relationship with him.

As a result, the paradigm for relational dealings is biblical accountability and government by way of covenanted agreement.  Through this model, individuals, partners, and organizations affiliated with KMUSA will better fulfill the calling of God as faithfulness is exhibited together between God and his church.  This same covenantal paradigm provides the basis for corporate business but is most easily seen in the union and work of husband and wife.  KMUSA commits to the biblical male-female distinctive that God has put in place and made plain both in the Scriptures and in life.

In addition, we see the Trinitarian relationship as the centering point of all reality, and thus the grounding for how we honor both the one and the many. By application, we will commit to help produce in one another:

* Embracing the biblically based accountability and government men, ministries, and organizations need in order to fulfill their maturity and destiny on earth.
* Honoring and promoting of the team that we believe husbands and wives form in ministry.
* A biblical and practical defense of the male-female distinctive as the essential genius of God.

Self-Government

Self-government under God is the foundation of all true liberty and is a foundational goal for all believers.  The government of the family, the local church, commercial, and civil spheres should work toward and promote this goal to exhibit the maturity the Scriptures call for in living a life for Christ. By application, we will commit to help produce in one another:

* Ministry that proceeds from biblical character
* A discipleship mode of living that consists of the believers life being in “training daily” before the Lord.

Mutual Submission

We believe that the five-fold gifts of Christ given at his Ascension, as spoken of in Ephesians 4:8-16, reside within the church today.  As a result, the local church should look to the larger Body of Christ for governance and mutual submission so that all might grow together in maturity in living for Christ. Every local church is an instance of and part of the Bride of Christ—the universal church--and therefore subject to her supervision and sovereignty in line with the will and work of Jesus Christ her head.  A church of Christ is never totally independent and there is no ultimate rule of decree by present-day Apostolic or Prophetic hierarchies.  Both the local church and the wider bodies must all submit to God's Word and the witness of the Holy Spirit.

By application, we will commit to help produce in one another:

* Voluntarily yielding our own personal agendas as living out the reality of the cross in our lives.
* Goals and direction that are confirmed out of corporeity, but initiated with personal responsibility.

Our Commitment

Walking together in Christ's work in order to teach and serve is built upon the commitment to help produce the following attributes in one another:

* Loving Christ by keeping his commandments and living for him
* Maintaining and living a Christian worldview fit for all of life
* Yielding our own personal agendas to live out the reality of the cross in our lives
* Ministering that proceeds from a biblical character
* Leadership that serves by recognizing and releasing God-given personal design and ministry
* Goals and direction that are confirmed together but initiated by clear personal responsibility
* Living in discipleship that consists of training daily before the Lord

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.

*We aspire to serve God’s purposes for our generation.*

The Common Theological Commitments of KMUSA

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his Fellowship 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…

The Eternal God

There is a single and simple spiritual being we call God who is eternal, all-sufficient in himself, incomprehensible, invisible, unchangeable, infinite, almighty, free, completely wise, just, good, holy, and the overflowing source of all good.  God works all things in accordance with his own counsel and immutable will, for his own glory, and remains most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin.  God rewards those that diligently seek him, is just in his judgments, and hates all sin.

We know God first by his creation, preservation, and government of the universe that makes his eternal power and divinity clear.  Secondly, God makes himself known to us more openly by his holy and divine Word for his glory and our salvation by the power and work of the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity

In the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Father has always been and is neither begotten nor proceeding, the Son is eternally begotten of the Father, the Holy Spirit eternally proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Our Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the only Son of God incarnate, divine, eternally begotten, fully God, fully man, and the Messiah promised from the earliest of redemptive history—the yes and amen of all of God's promises.   Because Jesus Christ was obedient even to the point of death on a cross, God has also highly exalted him with the name above all names and he exists as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.  After three days in the grave, Jesus rose from the dead, ascended to Heaven, is now seated at the right hand of the Father and rules over all creation.  All mankind must repent and submit to his lordship in every sphere of human life and activity as his Kingdom has no end.  Our Lord's Kingdom rule and will is the primary focus of the good news of the Gospel that we proclaim, pray for, and live.

Jesus Christ is the ultimate prophet, priest, and king and mediates salvation through his work of sacrifice and continued obedience to the Father to all who trust in him.  Consequently, this work enables believers to share in prophetic, priestly, and royal duties in fulfilling the calling of their lives through the work of the Holy Spirit to see the world transformed in accordance with his will and for his glory.

The Work and Power of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit proceeds eternally from the Father and the Son and is neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but only proceeding from the two of them.  He is the third person of the Trinity, of one and the same essence, majesty, and glory with the Father and the Son, and true and eternal God.  The Holy Spirit regenerates our hearts, provides us with the power and grace to live for Jesus Christ at the direction of the Father, and graces us with his presence and comfort in our daily lives.  The Holy Spirit guides and governs our work and we must be personally filled and energized by Him.

The Word of God, the Scriptures

The Word of God called the Scriptures are holy, divine, inerrant and infallible in their original languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and given to us for our salvation.  The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments comprise the Word of God we call the Scriptures.  The Scriptures are the ultimate authority in any religious controversy. The Scriptures remain the whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for God's own glory, man's salvation, faith, and life is either explicitly available to us in Scripture directly or by good and necessary consequence.  The infallible rule of Scripture is Scripture itself and the clearer passages explain the more difficult ones.

Salvation by Faith Alone

Salvation is freely and graciously available to all men who repent of their sins, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and commit to live for him in every facet of their lives.  The penalty and price for sin was paid by Jesus Christ once for all on the Cross and salvation is available to all mankind by the grace of God and through faith in the person of Jesus Christ.

True faith results in a changed life of obedience to God and his moral law by the power and work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.  Though we often fail and continue to mature in the faith, believers in Jesus Christ are clothed by his righteousness and will persevere in their salvation until the day that we see him as he is in glory.

Opposing Heresy

Heresies and false doctrine in word and deed have afflicted the world since people began to call upon the name of the Lord and live for him.  Such heresies must be opposed and especially those that are relevant and active in today's world.  Gnosticism, Montanism, Anti-nomianism, etc, as well as Pelagianism, semi-Pelagianism, its view of man, the surrounding culture, and the secularization of the church have to be consistently opposed.

The Creeds as Symbols and Guides

We rejoice with the church of all ages in accepting the historic creeds of the church including the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed, and the Definition of Chalcedon.  These statements of faith symbolize the historic and continued commitment of the universal church to the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

*We believe that theology matters*.

Our Common Relational Commitment

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e 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.

*We believe that how we honor our commitments reveals our character.*

How We Handle Our Financial Responsibilities

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t takes resources and money to operate virtually any human organization. All member churches or ministries are expected to contribute to the support of the KMUSA organization. This support level begins at two percent of the gross income of their organization. Accountability for member support levels is overseen by the Executive Council.

We expect that each KMUSA leader, within a period of two years, find a Care Point for accountability from the KMUSA regional or executive team to serve them in their personal pastoral needs. The KMUSA Regional Team will also be available as a team to work with the individual churches in that Region. We believe that this “three-fold cord” of pastoral accountability, regional accountability and Executive Team oversight offers a safe and dynamic form of pastoral and leadership input.

In exactly the same way that the giving of people goes to support the pastoral care and work of a local church, the local church should likewise financially support those giving them pastoral care and oversight. In this regard, we expect KMUSA churches and ministries to give into the ministry of KMUSA for pastoral care, leadership development and church health.

KMUSA finances are used to support the general administrative objectives of the organization, ministry development, and mission support related to our common efforts. Since money is time in foldable form, we attempt to steward it in a way that glorifies God and is most effective, honoring the time and labor of those who produced it.

*“…Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21).*

How to Become a Member

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MUSA believes strongly that God’s focus is relational; that is, He builds upon the revelation of who Christ is to us, and who we are to one another. We believe membership within our spiritual family is also by revelation. God must reveal to us with whom He wants us to walk out our faith and our ministries. Indeed, one of the critical issues in every believer’s life is the act of discovering and obeying the Holy Spirit’s placement of us within His Body. For this reason, Kingdom Ministries USA does not solicit or “recruit” members.

Membership without revelation is of little spiritual value. Becoming a member of KMUSA is a process. If KMUSA is really going to be all that it purposes to be, membership 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:

1. Do I feel that I could support and exemplify the doctrinal emphasis of KMUSA?
2. Do I feel a need to relate to like-minded ministries who are seeking to build a glorious church in these days?
3. Do I want to relate in fellowship with and have mutual accountability to other leaders with strong convictions?
4. 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 a candidate for membership in KMUSA! In order to give potential new members sufficient time to find God’s will in terms of becoming a part of us, here are the procedures we have set in place in order to facilitate this relation-building process:

**Spiritual Steps**

On the spiritual side, becoming a member of 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 membership 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 network 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

1. The church and/or ministry must make an official request of KMUSA to be considered for Covenant Level involvement.
2. A follow-up time will be planned whereby a core team member will meet with the leadership of the church and/or ministry.
3. The church and/or ministry would then provide a written letter of confirmation of desire to become a Covenant Church.
4. 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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 decides what level of relationship they feel led to cooperate, then the church 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 that are connected to KMUSA will be able to encourage other churches 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 of KMUSA’s existence. Let it be totally clear that KMUSA has NO INTENTION of bringing in churches from other groups or denominations. This will happen from time to time as the Spirit connects the heart of churches 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 or leader that would aggressively try to pull churches 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.

*God (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is “community” within Himself, and our model for life and ministry.*

Four Positive Benefits We Experience As Members of Kingdom Ministries USA

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e 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.

The Holy Spirit is moving across the earth calling his people to join the generations, build between all ethnic groups, equipping the saints in every sphere of ministry, bring the values of God’s Kingdom to replace the injustice and misuse of people and resources by which the world system now operates.

GOD’S WILL, GOD’S WAY, GOD’S TIMING

Why walk alone when we can stand together?

11783 Amethyst Road ★ Victorville. CA 92392

Phone: 760.949.4511

www.kmusa.org

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