AFRICAN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (ACFUSA)

MISSION ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP GUIDELINES

To Mobilize and Empower Africans Worldwide to Impact Their Generation and Africa

1. Purpose and Scope

These Mission Engagement and Partnership Guidelines ("Guidelines") establish a framework for mission engagement, ministry collaboration, partnership relationships, and related activities connected to African Christian Fellowship ("ACF USA"), including its national, regional, and chapter structures (collectively, "ACF").

The purpose of these Guidelines is to promote organizational clarity, healthy collaboration, responsible stewardship, accountability, and long-term mission effectiveness while encouraging responsible ministry participation and initiative.

These Guidelines are not intended to discourage independent ministry calling, charitable service, or healthy partnership development. Rather, they are intended to preserve unity, reduce confusion, encourage coordination, and provide clear expectations regarding activities connected to ACF relationships, mission structures, platforms, and outreach efforts.

These Guidelines supplement and should be read alongside existing ACF mission policies and governance structures, including:

A. The Policy on External Missions (August 27, 2017);
B. The Missions Policy and Short-Term Outreach Guidebook; and
C. Related ACF governance structures and mission policies.

These Guidelines apply to:

A. ACF-supported initiatives;
B. Partnership engagements;
C. Independent member-led initiatives;
D. Mission-related fundraising and promotion; and
E. Activities involving ACF relationships, identity, platforms, or resources.

2. Guiding Principles

Mission engagement is most effective when it reflects unity, stewardship, accountability, collaboration, mutual respect, and shared purpose. Even well-intentioned ministry efforts, when uncoordinated, may create confusion, duplicate efforts, strain relationships, weaken trust, or reduce long-term ministry effectiveness.

Accordingly, mission participation should seek to:

A. Align with shared mission vision, values, and strategy;
B. Reflect transparency regarding organizational involvement and authority;
C. Protect long-term ministry relationships, trust, and continuity;
D. Encourage healthy collaboration among ACF regions, mission teams, churches, ministry partners, and member-led initiatives;
E. Promote responsible stewardship of finances, ministry opportunities, donor relationships, and organizational credibility; and
F. Strengthen Christian unity, mutual encouragement, and cooperative ministry engagement.

ACF values the gifts, ministries, experiences, and callings of its members and encourages responsible ministry participation, initiative, partnership development, and service consistent with these shared principles.

These Guidelines are intended to support healthy coordination, faithful stewardship, respectful collaboration, and long-term mission effectiveness while preserving flexibility for responsible ministry engagement and partnership.

3. Engagement Classifications

3.10 ACF-Supported Initiatives

ACF-Supported Initiatives operate within ACF mission structures and constitute official ACF mission work before, during, and after mission trips, outreach efforts, and related activities.

Such initiatives generally involve:

A. ACF leadership approval;
B. Alignment with ACF mission priorities and strategy;
C. Shared oversight, accountability, and coordination;
D. Use of ACF mission structures, relationships, or platforms; and
E. Representation as official ACF mission work.

In simple terms: This is official ACF mission work carried out within ACF leadership oversight and mission structures.

3.20 Independent Initiatives

Independent Initiatives are separately operated ministries, NGOs, nonprofits, churches, humanitarian initiatives, charitable organizations, or mission efforts led by ACF members outside official ACF structures.

These initiatives generally maintain:

A. Separate leadership and governance;
B. Separate financial accountability;
C. Independent fundraising structures;
D. Distinct organizational identity and communication; and
E. Independent operational responsibility.

Independent initiatives should accurately represent their relationship to ACF and should not imply ACF sponsorship, endorsement, partnership, approval, or organizational authority unless formally authorized by ACF.

These Guidelines are intended to encourage healthy coordination, transparency, respectful collaboration, and organizational clarity where ministry activities involve shared mission contexts, existing ACF relationships, or overlapping ministry engagement.

Independent initiatives are encouraged to maintain appropriate communication and coordination with ACF leadership where:

A. Shared mission relationships exist;
B. Ongoing ACF mission engagement already exists;
C. ACF mission structures, platforms, or relationships are involved; or
D. Significant overlap or confusion may reasonably occur.

Independent initiatives remain responsible for their own governance, operations, finances, communications, and ministry activities unless formally operating as an authorized ACF-supported initiative or approved partnership engagement.

In simple terms: This is a ministry or organization operating independently and not as official ACF mission work.

3.30 Partnership Engagements

Partnership Engagements involve collaborative relationships between ACF and external churches, ministries, NGOs, nonprofits, mission organizations, humanitarian initiatives, or similar partners.

Such engagements generally involve:

A. Clearly defined roles and expectations;
B. Coordinated planning and communication;
C. Mutual accountability and transparency;
D. Defined financial expectations where appropriate; and
E. Preserved organizational identity and boundaries.

Partnerships should strengthen ministry effectiveness while preserving clarity regarding representation, authority, responsibility, and accountability.

In simple terms: This is collaborative ministry work carried out through a defined relationship between ACF and another organization or ministry.

4. Governance and Participation Framework

ACF mission work operates through established leadership and governance structures at the national, regional, local, and field levels.

"Appropriate ACF leadership" refers to the level of leadership reasonably connected to the nature, scope, location, or organizational impact of a mission-related activity. Depending on the circumstances, this may include Regional Missions Directors, Regional Executive Leadership, the National Missions Council ("NMC"), the National Board, or other designated leadership.

Participants are expected to operate within:

A. Approved mission structures and governance processes;
B. Assigned leadership responsibilities;
C. Coordinated mission strategies; and
D. Applicable regional constitutions and policies.

These Guidelines establish shared national principles while allowing regions reasonable flexibility in implementation consistent with their ministry realities and governance structures.

5. Coordinated Engagement and Mission Alignment

Mission activities connected to ACF relationships, mission structures, or shared ministry contexts should be carried out with appropriate communication and coordination with ACF leadership, and respect for ongoing ACF ministry efforts and relationships.

Coordination may include:

A. Mission strategy and geographic engagement;
B. Scheduling and ministry activities;
C. Financial and fundraising coordination;
D. Communication and representation; and
E. Ministry presentations and related activities.

Participants should seek to avoid actions that create confusion, duplication of effort, overlapping ministry activity, or organizational conflict.

Independent initiatives and partnership engagements are encouraged to communicate and coordinate appropriately with ACF leadership where:

A. Shared mission relationships exist;
B. Ongoing ministry activity already exists;
C. Significant overlap may reasonably occur; or
D. ACF mission structures, platforms, or relationships are involved.

These coordination expectations are intended to preserve healthy ministry relationships, continuity, mutual respect, effective stewardship, and long-term mission effectiveness. They are not intended to create ownership over ministry relationships, mission fields, communities, or independent callings.

ACF encourages responsible ministry initiative, partnership development, and collaborative engagement carried out with wisdom, transparency, and respect for existing ministry relationships and coordinated mission efforts.

6. Representation, Communication, and Identity

Communication regarding mission work should accurately reflect the nature of ACF involvement, organizational support, leadership responsibility, partnership status, and ministry accountability.

Participants should:

A. Represent ACF truthfully and responsibly;
B. Avoid implying ACF sponsorship, endorsement, approval, authority, or partnership where none exists;
C. Exercise wisdom, integrity, and transparency in communication and ministry representation; and
D. Clearly distinguish independent initiatives from official ACF-supported initiatives unless formal authorization or partnership approval has been granted.

Participation in ACF conferences, mission trips, leadership structures, ministry events, or collaborative activities does not automatically constitute:

A. Organizational endorsement;
B. Financial sponsorship;
C. Partnership approval;
D. Leadership authorization; or
E. Official recognition as an ACF initiative.

The ACF name, logo, identity, mission relationships, communication channels, and organizational platforms should be used only in ways consistent with authorized involvement and accurate representation.

These expectations are intended to preserve trust, transparency, accountability, respectful collaboration, and organizational integrity while encouraging healthy ministry participation and communication.

7. Relationships and Mission Integrity

Relationships developed through ACF mission work should be treated with respect, stewardship, and sensitivity to long-term ministry continuity and effectiveness.

Participants should seek to:

A. Protect trust and continuity in ministry relationships;
B. Engage mission communities respectfully, collaboratively, and transparently;
C. Avoid creating confusion regarding leadership roles, organizational identity, or ministry accountability;
D. Support coordinated rather than competing engagement efforts; and
E. Preserve healthy ministry relationships and partnership integrity.

Activities involving shared mission relationships, ministry partnerships, or ongoing mission initiatives should be conducted in ways that:

A. Encourage respectful collaboration;
B. Preserve continuity and trust;
C. Avoid unnecessary conflict or overlapping engagement;
D. Promote healthy communication; and
E. Support long-term ministry effectiveness.

These principles are intended to encourage stewardship, relational integrity, wise coordination, and collaborative ministry engagement. They are not intended to restrict independent calling, personal ministry relationships, or responsible ministry initiative carried out with transparency and respect for existing ministry efforts and relationships.

8. Commitments and Decision Authority

Participants should not directly or indirectly make financial, operational, strategic, partnership, short-term, or long-term commitments on behalf of ACF.

This includes:

A. Promising funding, sponsorship, organizational support, personnel, mission participation, or ministry resources in ACF's name;
B. Entering partnership commitments, formal agreements, organizational undertakings, or binding arrangements on behalf of ACF;
C. Representing ACF in formal negotiations, partnership discussions, organizational commitments, or ministry arrangements without appropriate authorization;

D. Making representations that reasonably imply official ACF authorization, approval, sponsorship, endorsement, partnership, or commitment where such approval has not been granted;

E. Using ACF-developed mission relationships, ministry access, organizational connections, donor relationships, or mission exposure to advance separate initiatives in ways that create confusion, competing structures, overlapping engagement, or implied organizational authorization;

F. Committing ACF personnel, volunteers, mission teams, communication channels, conference platforms, ministry opportunities, or organizational resources without authorization;

G. Announcing partnerships, sponsorships, ministry initiatives, collaborations, or organizational relationships involving ACF before appropriate approval or authorization; or

H. Creating financial expectations, donor expectations, ministry obligations, or anticipated organizational support involving ACF without appropriate authorization.

Matters relating to organizational commitments involving ACF relationships, mission structures, partnerships, finances, ministry activities, or representation are to be referred to appropriate ACF leadership.

These expectations are intended to preserve responsible stewardship, organizational accountability, transparency, accurate representation, healthy ministry coordination, protection of mission relationships, and organizational integrity.

Informal relationship-building, ministry networking, partnership conversations, or exploratory collaboration conducted transparently do not, by themselves, constitute organizational authorization, sponsorship, endorsement, approval, or commitment by ACF.

Unauthorized statements, representations, commitments, or undertakings by participants do not constitute binding commitments or obligations of ACF absent approval through appropriate ACF leadership processes.

Nothing in this section is intended to discourage healthy ministry relationships, collaborative discussions, ministry networking, or responsible partnership exploration conducted transparently and without unauthorized representation of ACF.

9. Financial Stewardship, Fundraising, and Platform Use

ACF encourages ministry participation and collaboration while also protecting donor trust, financial stewardship, organizational integrity, and long-term mission sustainability.

Fundraising activities connected to ACF relationships, mission activities, conferences, or ministry platforms should occur responsibly and under appropriate coordination.

Participants should not:

A. Conduct unauthorized fundraising tied to ACF mission relationships or activities;
B. Use ACF donor relationships, mailing lists, ministry exposure, or mission platforms for unrelated or unapproved fundraising purposes;
C. Present independent initiatives in ways that imply official ACF sponsorship, endorsement, or financial approval where none exists; or
D. Create confusion between official ACF initiatives and independent ministries in connection with fundraising or financial support.

Independent initiatives and partnership engagements do not automatically receive ACF endorsement, fundraising opportunities, financial sponsorship, or donor access.

ACF leadership may establish reasonable procedures regarding:

A. Authorized fundraising activities;
B. Conference-related fundraising;
C. Financial accountability expectations;
D. Ministry promotion involving fundraising; and
E. Use of ACF communication or donor platforms.

These measures are intended to preserve stewardship, transparency, donor confidence, organizational clarity, and healthy ministry relationships.

10. Conference Participation and Ministry Promotion

ACF conferences, mission gatherings, leadership meetings, and ministry platforms primarily exist to advance fellowship, discipleship, mission mobilization, organizational ministry objectives, and coordinated mission engagement.

Accordingly, ministry presentations, informational sharing, announcements, displays, and related activities should be conducted in ways that preserve ministry focus, organizational clarity, fairness, conference order, and respectful collaboration.

Regions and conference leadership may establish reasonable procedures regarding:

A. Ministry presentations and informational sharing;
B. Conference tables, displays, or ministry materials;
C. Use of conference platforms or communication opportunities;
D. Distinctions between official ACF initiatives, partnership ministries, and independent initiatives; and
E. Scheduling and coordination of ministry-related participation activities.

Participation in ACF events or ministry platforms does not automatically constitute:

A. Organizational endorsement;
B. Partnership approval;
C. Financial sponsorship;
D. Leadership authorization; or
E. Official recognition as an ACF initiative.

Personal ministry testimony, informational sharing, or ministry participation should be conducted with honesty, transparency, wisdom, and sensitivity to organizational clarity and conference purpose.

These expectations are intended to encourage healthy ministry participation while preserving conference order, fairness, stewardship, and coordinated mission engagement.

11. Post-Mission Engagement

Continued engagement following mission participation is encouraged and may include prayer, support activities, future outreach participation, partnership development, fundraising coordination, relationship-building, and ongoing ministry collaboration.

Where shared mission relationships, communities, partnerships, or ongoing ACF mission initiatives are involved, continued engagement should remain appropriately coordinated with ACF leadership in order to promote healthy communication, continuity, stewardship, and collaboration.

Participants should seek to avoid:

A. Re-engaging mission communities in ways that create confusion, conflict, or misunderstanding regarding ministry leadership, accountability, or organizational involvement;
B. Establishing competing or conflicting ministry structures within existing shared mission contexts without appropriate communication and coordination;
C. Using ACF mission exposure, relationships, platforms, or participation in ways that create organizational confusion or materially undermine ongoing ministry relationships or coordinated mission efforts; or
D. Misrepresenting independent ministry activity as official ACF-supported work where no formal authorization exists.

These expectations are intended to encourage healthy long-term ministry relationships, respectful collaboration, continuity, transparency, and responsible stewardship of shared ministry engagement.

Nothing in this section is intended to prohibit personal relationships, independent calling,

charitable service, or responsible ministry initiative carried out with honesty, transparency, and respect for existing ministry relationships and coordinated mission efforts.

12. Accountability, Support, and Ministry Alignment

Mission work operates within a culture of accountability, communication, collaboration, stewardship, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. Accordingly, participants are expected to:

A. Maintain open and honest communication;
B. Seek guidance where appropriate;
C. Remain responsive to leadership coordination;
D. Preserve healthy ministry relationships; and
E. Support organizational clarity and mission effectiveness.

ACF leadership should ordinarily seek to address concerns through communication, guidance, clarification, prayerful engagement, and reasonable opportunities for resolution and alignment.

Where significant concerns persist involving any of the following, appropriate ACF leadership may implement reasonable protective or corrective measures:

A. Unauthorized representation;
B. Misuse of ACF platforms or relationships;
C. Overlapping or conflicting mission activity creating organizational confusion;
D. Disregard of coordinated mission processes;
E. Conduct creating substantial confusion regarding organizational authority, sponsorship, or ministry accountability; or
F. Unauthorized fundraising activity connected to ACF mission structures or relationships.

Reasonable corrective measures may include:

A. Additional leadership review, communication, or oversight;
B. Clarification of organizational expectations or boundaries;
C. Limitation of access to specific ministry platforms, activities, or leadership functions where appropriate;
D. Withdrawal of organizational sponsorship, endorsement, or partnership recognition where appropriate; or
E. Other reasonable actions deemed necessary to preserve stewardship, ministry integrity, organizational clarity, or healthy ministry relationships.

Corrective actions should ordinarily seek restoration, clarity, reconciliation, and healthy alignment whenever reasonably possible.

These measures should be pursued prayerfully, fairly, relationally, proportionately, and with sensitivity to both ministry effectiveness and Christian fellowship.

13. Practical Examples and Applications

The following examples are illustrative and should be interpreted reasonably.

13.10 Appropriate Engagement. Examples may include:

A. Operating a separate nonprofit organization or ministry with clear distinction from ACF identity, governance, fundraising, and representation;
B. Providing approved opportunities during mission conferences or ministry events for ministries to share information in ways consistent with established conference procedures;
C. Communicating and coordinating with appropriate ACF leadership before initiating ministry activity in areas where ACF already has ongoing mission engagement or relationships;
D. Pursuing partnership discussions through appropriate communication channels before presenting a ministry relationship as an official ACF partnership; and
E. Participating in collaborative ministry efforts while maintaining honesty and transparency regarding organizational roles and responsibilities.

13.20 Inappropriate Engagement. Examples may include:

A. Using ACF platforms, mission exposure, or ministry gatherings for unauthorized fundraising or solicitation activities;
B. Stating or implying ACF sponsorship, endorsement, partnership approval, or organizational authority where no formal authorization exists;
C. Creating substantial confusion regarding whether a ministry initiative is operating independently or as an official ACF-supported initiative;
D. Repeatedly soliciting the same donor or ministry networks in ways that create unhealthy pressure, organizational strain, or donor confusion; or
E. Using ACF relationships, ministry exposure, communication channels, or conference participation in ways that materially undermine coordinated mission engagement, existing ministry relationships, or organizational accountability.

These examples are intended to encourage responsible ministry participation, respectful collaboration, accurate representation, and healthy stewardship practices while supporting ministry effectiveness and Christian unity.

14. Adoption, Implementation, and Review

These Guidelines shall take effect upon approval through appropriate ACF leadership and governance processes.

The Guidelines may be communicated to mission participants and leaders, incorporated into mission and leadership training, applied within mission and partnership activities, and supplemented by regional operational procedures where appropriate.

These Guidelines should be interpreted and applied reasonably, relationally, prayerfully, and in good faith, consistent with ACF's mission objectives, Christian values, stewardship principles, organizational integrity, and long-term mission effectiveness.

Nothing in these Guidelines shall be interpreted to create exclusive ownership over mission fields, ministry relationships, communities, or independent Christian calling.

These Guidelines should be reviewed periodically to ensure continued relevance, clarity, effectiveness, and alignment with evolving ministry realities and organizational needs.

These Mission Engagement and Partnership Guidelines were presented to, reviewed, and adopted by the National Board of ACF USA at a duly convened meeting of the National Board held on the 26th day of July, 2026.

Number of members present: 12
Number of votes for: 12
Number of votes against: ____
Number abstaining: ____

By: _____ Text August 15, 2026
National Chairman, ACFUSA Board **Date**

By: _____ August 15, 2026
Emmanuel Onalaru **Date**
National Secretary, ACFUSA Board

Submitted by Committee on Independent Missions Initiatives:

Festus Ukwuani (Subcommittee Chair)
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