



MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK 2023

Empowering Leaders

Global Change Network, U.S.A.
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ABOUT US

Global Change Network, U.S.A. (GCN, U.S.A.), a Colorado non-profit corporation, is an international alliance of ministers that serves as a professional association for its members. Active members enjoy spiritual covering, oversight, guidance, mentoring, training, fellowship and support for their ministry endeavors, along with the public endorsement to fulfill the Great Commission. GCN, U.S.A. is a network whose goals are realized through the relationship of the members to the organization and to each other.

GCN, U.S.A. members have been trained, ordained and released (sent) to the local church, the community and the world. Members participate in various ministry activities. Having been ordained to one of the five-fold offices or leadership roles (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher), many members serve as leaders in local church bodies, or as part of parachurch organizations. Others have formed their own personal ministries which focus in widely diverse areas such as prison aftercare, preaching and teaching, the marketplace and the arts.

GCN, U.S.A. is a self-governing ministry and a wholly owned subsidiary of Colorado Christian Fellowship (CCF).

Purpose

Our purpose is to facilitate the ministry activities of our members and affiliates worldwide. Through relationship, GCN, U.S.A. seeks to empower members and affiliates to accomplish their ministry goals. GCN, U.S.A. provides spiritual covering, certification, counseling, mentoring and networking opportunities.

History

In 2003, Apostle Phillip F. Smith, Jr. began training the first group of men and women in their five-fold ministry giftings. In the spring of 2004, 33 of these students were subsequently ordained and became the first members of GCN, U.S.A. Since that time, the organization has ordained over 200 ministers who are located in the U.S.A., the United Kingdom and Zambia. In September 2007, the Board of Overseers for GCN, U.S.A. was established and GCN, U.S.A. was incorporated as a Colorado non-profit organization.

Missions

As part of our purpose, GCN, U.S.A. participates in both local and foreign missions activities by partnering with our members in their various ministry projects. We have provided funds for the purchase of farm land in Zambia which now provides economic support as well as food for some of our members and the community. Other initiatives include financial support for a church building project, spiritual counseling and the facilitation of specific conferences and seminars. Our plan is to expand assistance to include economic empowerment education, grants, church planting support and church building support.

Governance

GCN, U.S.A. is governed by a Board of Overseers appointed by and accountable to the Board of Overseers of CCF. The Board of Overseers is responsible for deciding all matters of GCN, U.S.A. and also gives input into the mission of the organization.

GCN, U.S.A. is subject to the bylaws, policies and procedures established for the governance of CCF. As such, GCN, U.S.A. is accountable to the Board of Overseers of CCF for its oversight and the implementation of its mission. According to Article 3, Section 3.2.2 of the GCN U.S.A. bylaws, the minimum requirements to serve as a member of the Board of Overseers are active membership and good standing in GCN, U.S.A.

MEMBERSHIP

GCN, U.S.A. Membership

Membership in GCN, U.S.A. means that you agree to:

1. *Maintain a godly life displaying Christian character and conduct, and upholding a scriptural standard in teaching.* As ministers of the Gospel, members are held accountable to the principles of God as conveyed in Scripture - in all manner of ethics, morality, integrity and ministerial practice. The standard by which all GCN, U.S.A. members should continually measure themselves is outlined in I Timothy, Chapter 3 and Titus Chapter 1. The activities of members, including public and private statements and conduct, are subject to review by the GCN, U.S.A. Board of Overseers in accordance with these standards.
2. *Commit to active ministry.* A member of GCN, U.S.A. should be in active service in the Body of Christ and viewed as taking a leadership posture in whatever ministry endeavor is undertaken and/or whatever local church he or she attends. Active ministry might be teaching Sunday School, leading a personal ministry, organizing an evangelistic outreach, preaching and teaching at the invitation of others, participating in domestic or foreign missions work, along with many other kinds of activities based on the member's calling, gifts, skills, talents and training. It is our belief that members of GCN, U.S.A. have prayerfully and soberly answered the call to ministry as leaders and have accepted the associated responsibility.
3. *Participate in post-ordination training for ongoing spiritual and professional growth.* Ordination is just the beginning. Successful service means continually seeking to build on the foundation that has been established, to grow and mature in your Christian vocation.

A member might choose to pursue higher education, attend seminars, study to expand or change his or her ministry endeavors, take a short course or engage in self-directed study. Members also are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities for training through seminars, workshops and conferences offered at Christian Vocational Training School (CVTS), the school for adult Christian education at Colorado Christian Fellowship.

4. *Establish meaningful contact with GCN, U.S.A., network members and Apostle Phillip F. Smith, Jr.* A foundational principle for the successful functioning of

a network is relationship. Without meaningful, ongoing communication, a relationship cannot be sustained and becomes ineffective and meaningless. Attending events sponsored by GCN, U.S.A. is one way to establish and maintain meaningful ties within the organization. GCN, U.S.A. offers several opportunities for members to remain meaningfully connected with other network members and Apostle Phil.

Benefits

Members of GCN, U.S.A. enjoy the following:

1. Connection with a professional ministerial organization that provides annual re-credentialing.
2. Ongoing spiritual covering and connection with Apostle Phillip F. Smith, Jr.
3. Enhanced credibility for ministry activities through an affiliation with a well-established local church and a growing global network.
4. Networking opportunities through various events, including conferences, trainings, ordination week activities, quarterly get together, and five-fold office activities. Members are invited to attend various meetings, workshops and retreats.
5. Information-sharing among members through regular correspondence and the GCN, U.S.A. newsletter and website.
6. Accountability and support for ministry through relationships with GCN, U.S.A. organization and GCN members.
7. Access to counseling for personal needs through the Pastoral Counseling Department at Colorado Christian Fellowship.
8. Access to ministry resources such as training materials, books and ministry support teams.
9. Mentoring and consultation regarding ministry goals, plans and activities.
10. Assistance with church planting activities.

Activities

Active members of GCN, U.S.A. are invited to participate in the following opportunities:

- Apply for grant awards to support their ministry efforts.
- Attend fellowship and networking activities during the year.
- Attend ‘Five-fold Office’ group activities.
- Attend an Annual Membership Meeting (Mandatory).
- Receive special offers for post-ordination training courses at CVTS.
- Participate in the monthly GCN ‘Equipping the Equippers’ webinar training.
- Participate in opportunities for counseling through the Pastoral Counseling Department at Colorado Christian Fellowship.
- Participate in opportunities for mentoring and counseling regarding ministry plans and activities.
- Apply to participate in ministry opportunities when offered through GCN, U.S.A., such as prayer ministry, outreach and missions trips.

Classifications

According to Article 5, Sections 5.2 and 5.3 of the bylaws of GCN, U.S.A., members are classified according to one of the following categories:

1. **Active:** A member who has complied with all annual membership renewal requirements.
2. **Inactive:** A member who has not complied with the annual membership renewal requirements. Inactive members may not participate in activities that are reserved for active members.
3. **Terminated:** A member whose ordination credentials have been revoked either voluntarily or involuntarily:
 - *Voluntary* – A member may choose at any time to surrender his or her ordination credentials upon written notification to the Board of Overseers of GCN, U.S.A. The request will be presented to the Board of Overseers of CCF

for official action concerning that member's status. Revocation terminates the minister's right to participate in any privileges afforded to members of GCN, U.S.A. or hold oneself out to the public as an ordained minister of CCF or member of GCN, U.S.A.

- *Involuntary* – A member's ordination credentials may be revoked at the recommendation of the Board of Overseers for the following reasons: a) member has remained in inactive status for two consecutive years; b) member fails to demonstrate the intent to be involved in consistent, meaningful ministry activity, and function in one or more of the leadership gifts expressed in Ephesians 4:11 (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher); c) member fails to maintain a godly life of Christian character and conduct and does not uphold a scriptural standard in teaching.

Membership Renewal

Members of GCN, U.S.A. are part of a unique association. One of our core values is fostering true relationships between members and with Apostle Phillip Smith, Jr. GCN, U.S.A. ministers should understand the needs for spiritual covering, accountability, support and training. Our members also should realize that just as ministry can be rewarding, uplifting and fulfilling, it also can be, at times, difficult, demanding, and challenging. Ministry can even take a toll on one's life if the proper care is not taken to avoid it.

Our belief about active ministry involvement is that one's personal life qualifies them. The membership renewal process allows members an opportunity to take stock of their lives and ministry and allows GCN, U.S.A. to verify that our members are adhering to the organization's requirements.

The membership renewal process takes place during the first quarter of the year, and is the only time during the year that members may renew their credentials. Failure to do so results in the member being classified as "Inactive" for that year.

In order to maintain status as a member of GCN, U.S.A a member must:

- 1) *Complete an Online Member Information Form.*

- a. This form is designed to maintain current contact information for each member. Credentials are reissued annually in the form of a membership card.
- 2) *Sign GCN U.S.A. Membership Agreement.*
 - a. *Signatures are required annually and when updates are made to the original Membership Agreement.*
- 3) *Annual affiliation dues are required as follows:*
 - a. Pay \$75 affiliation dues during the annual renewal period (annual dues will be waived through the end of the year in which the member is ordained).
 - b. Members are welcome to donate financial gifts of any amount to GCN, U.S.A. at any time.
- 4) Attend GCN, U.S.A. Annual Membership meeting.
- 5) Complete 10 hours required annual continuing education training for GCN, U.S.A. members.

Membership Reinstatement (Requirements)

Past members who are outside of the two-year inactive status, but in good standing can reinstate their former membership by completing the applicable Reinstatement Form and completing the following actions:

1. A cover letter explaining why membership lapsed and the reason membership should be reinstated.
2. Complete a Member Information Form.
 - This form is designed to maintain current contact information for each member. Credentials are reissued annually in the form of a membership card.
3. Interview with GCN, U.S.A. Board of Overseers.
4. Submit the annual affiliation dues in one of the following ways:
5. Pay \$75 minimum dues.
6. Attend required GCN, U.S.A. continuing education training for reinstatement candidates.

Guidelines

Whether or not GCN, U.S.A. ministers are also members of CCF, there are guidelines for maintaining the appropriate separation between CCF and the activities of GCN, U.S.A. members. **Affiliated ministers should not rely on CCF and its membership as the primary support and focus for their ministry activities.**

GCN, U.S.A. has established office space in the CVTS building for the purpose of conducting all GCN, U.S.A. business. This includes, but is not limited to, meetings, ordination planning, re-certification activities, and distribution of official communications.

Members will be governed by the following guidelines in order to protect CCF members from exploitation and harassment, and to promote equality and fairness among GCN, U.S.A. members:

1. Affiliation

- The personal ministry activities of the membership of GCN, U.S.A. are separate and apart from those of CCF. Thus, members of GCN, U.S.A. may not present themselves or their ministries as acting on behalf of, or representing CCF.
- Members may not use the name of CCF in literature or promotional materials except as it pertains to their membership and affiliation in GCN, U.S.A.

2. Advertising/Promotions

- Members may advertise their ministries at CCF in two ways. Information about ministry activities may be a) submitted to the GCN Administrative Office for circulation to the membership and b) submitted for publication via the GCN, U.S.A. newsletter or website.
- Members may not advertise their personal ministries or ministry activities at CCF through announcements or unauthorized publications.

- Members may not post materials concerning their personal ministries on any CCF bulletin boards, the website, or in publications such as the church newsletter, fliers or brochures.
- Members may not solicit participation in, or assistance with, their personal ministries in any CCF forums such as worship services, meetings, classes or trainings.

3. Solicitation

- Members may not solicit funds from the members of CCF while at services, meetings, classes or other gatherings at the church. Members may not use CCF membership directories, mailing lists or any other data compiled in CCF's databases for solicitations of any kind.
- Members may not sell products or services at CCF.

4. Media Relations/ Relations with the General Public

- Failure of members to maintain the highest standards in personal and private communications can result in scrutiny and or corrective action by the Board of Overseers of GCN, U.S.A.
- All communication, whether in private or in public, should be of the highest caliber. Members should be aware that statements, whether broadcast on television or radio; whether published in newspapers, magazines or books; whether published on websites, blogs, social networking sites or distributed by text messaging; and whether these statements are made in the course of doing ministry or not, such statements have the potential to reflect on your status as an ordained minister of the Gospel, the ordaining body (CCF) and on the entire GCN, U.S.A. organization. If there is doubt about communicating in a certain way, to a particular individual or organization or through a specific platform, you are urged to contact the GCN, U.S.A. office for counsel.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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