



GUIDE TO BECOMING A
**NETWORK
PARTNER**







Welcome To The Elim Network

God is doing many wonderful things across the nations, and I'm convinced He is preparing His church to be ready for more. One aspect of this preparation is the connecting of churches and ministries as He strategically joins up hearts for greater effectiveness. The Elim Network offers this opportunity, and we look forward to celebrating and strengthening one another together in the years ahead.

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Who We Are

A movement of Pentecostal churches working in the United Kingdom, Ireland and over 50 nations around the world, the Elim Pentecostal Church is a growing movement of Christian congregations in the UK and Ireland.

Elim was founded in 1915 by George Jeffreys, a young Christian from Maesteg in South Wales. Jeffreys and a group of friends, known as the Elim Evangelistic Band, preached, started churches and witnessed a move of God that was characterised by miraculous healings and an explosion in the number of people becoming Christians.

In a world that can feel like a desert, our 21st-century churches seek to be a place of spiritual renewal within their communities. Our founders wanted the name of their new movement to express their vision and values, and so chose 'Elim', the name of an oasis in the Bible that the people of Israel discovered as they wandered through the desert. It provided shade and refreshment to all who encountered it.

Today, Elim is a movement and is much broader than the 430 or so Alliance¹ churches across the UK and Republic of Ireland. Elim Global partners with many movements, churches and ministries in over 50 nations of the world and the Elim Network (Elim Church Incorporated) engages with churches, ministries and ministers across the UK enabling relationship and partnership in this great mission together.



What Is The Elim Network?

The heart and vision of the Elim Network is to be a movement of Pentecostal churches, leaders and ministries that offer the potential for partnership without control, that is rooted in a shared passion for mission. In this way the Elim Network can be a Spirit-empowered network that finds connection through a strong mutual relationship, looking at how we can resource, support and stand with each other without dominating each other's local agenda, focus or vision. This kind of network is held together by valuable relationships and meaningful participation.

History Of The Elim Network

The Elim Church Incorporated (now known as the Elim Network) was founded in 1926 and officially incorporated in 1927, as a fellowship of Pentecostal churches, each having its own form of government. Those responsible for its founding were the leaders of the Elim Pentecostal Church who recognised that many independent Pentecostal churches were coming into existence and saw the wisdom of providing a facility for such churches to be united in fellowship with others of like mind, while retaining their independent status. Today, we see this as a prophetic statement that continues to enable churches across the nations to partner together for the Kingdom.

The Elim Pentecostal Church, whose legal name is the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance, became a constituent member and its special place is enshrined within its Constitution. It is normal practice for all those holding credentials with the Elim Pentecostal Church (the Alliance) to hold these credentials through the Elim Church Incorporated.

The basis upon which fellowship is established is the acceptance of the foundational truths and the terms of membership set out in this document². The ECI Constitution is quite brief and largely deals with the procedure for the election of officers and the conducting of the Annual General Meeting. A copy of the Constitution is available from the General Secretary. The Annual General Meeting of the Elim Network is normally held during the week of the Elim Conference each year. In the main, it is for reporting purposes, though it is empowered to change the ECI Constitution and to elect the members of the Executive Presbytery (the Elim Network Leadership Team). The Annual General Meeting is known as the General Presbytery (the membership) of the Elim Network.

1. This term refers a centrally governed Elim church that is part of the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance (the legal identity of the Elim Pentecostal Church)
2. This is the legal governing document of the Elim Church Incorporated and will hereafter therefore be referred to by its legal identity of 'the ECI Constitution'.



Application Pathway



How do church and ministries apply to join the Elim Network?

The Elim Network is open to accept into membership those churches, ministers or ministries which can accept its Foundational Truths as a basis of faith, and who are Pentecostal in belief, experience and practice. There is no requirement to replace any existing doctrinal statement with the Elim Network one, but the Network Leadership Team does require that the statement of faith of the local church or ministry is in harmony with that of the Network.

Criteria For Application By Churches, Ministers Or Ministries

For some churches in the British Isles, Elim Network membership becomes a stepping stone into the Alliance.* It has afforded churches the opportunity to become familiar with the Elim movement before making the kind of commitment needed to become an Alliance church, which is seen by Elim to be a positive trajectory in the relationship. However, this is not mandatory and churches can remain Network churches whilst continuing to be a positive and meaningful part of the Elim movement.

Network churches or ministries do not come under the governance of the Alliance, but under the terms of the ECI Constitution, and are expected to make a financial contribution to Elim which is seen as a positive statement about

the commitment to partner with the Elim movement regionally and nationally, and recognises the benefits that come from the partnership with the Elim movement. These figures for both churches and ministries are listed a little later in this document.

Applications by interested churches, ministers or ministries are made to the General Secretary, who presents them for consideration to the Network Leadership Team of the Elim Church Incorporated, who meet concurrently with Elim National Leadership Team meetings, usually five times per year. The application pathway is finalised with the completion of the application forms and by submitting the required documentation as outlined in the application portal.

The application pathway also involves assessing the organisational culture of churches and ministries applying to join the Network. Among others, one consistent lesson has to be learned from recent high-profile news stories and that is that organisational culture is a major contributing factor which leads to a range of negative outcomes for the church. Therefore, our application process will seek to test some key area that we believe are indicative of a healthy culture. Money, Morals and Mores. Financial Review, Doctrinal review and Cultural review are therefore built into the application process. This application process entails work to ensure strong compliance in respect of safeguarding, data protection, doctrine and appropriate financial reporting.

* The Alliance is shorthand for a church which is fully integrated into the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance, becoming part of the overall Elim Charity entity.

Criteria For Application By Churches, Ministers Or Ministries

The following are the criteria that are used for assessing the suitability of any church, minister or ministry for acceptance into the Elim Network:

- ▶ Statement of faith in line with Elim's Foundational Truths
- ▶ Agreement with Elim's stated belief on human sexuality and biblical marriage
- ▶ The applicant is Pentecostal in belief, experience and practice
- ▶ The church or ministry can demonstrate financial stability and integrity
- ▶ The applicant can demonstrate compliance in the crucial areas of charity law, safeguarding, GDPR and other government legislation as is relevant
- ▶ The applicant agrees to actively fulfil the Network's requirements and expectations



Elim Network Benefits



What are the benefits to joining the Elim Network?

Whilst we list the benefits of joining the Elim Network below, we would emphasise that relationship is the main benefit of joining the Network. The benefits of becoming an Elim Network church depend on the amount that the church in question wishes to engage with Elim. To the extent that one church engages and 'joins in' is the extent to which they will derive benefit from the relationship.

Regional Events

Regular regional meetings provide an opportunity for fellowship, encouragement, training and teaching. These are an important opportunity to build relationships with other Elim Leaders in the local area through whom creative ideas, insight and resources may be discovered.

There is likely to be a minister who has faced an issue that you will face and therefore can share wisdom from their experience and perhaps even advice to avoid potentially problematic issues. This could include complex pastoral issues, situations requiring conflict resolution, or advice navigating public bodies and organisations to help develop the ministry of the church.

Elim Leaders Summit

During this annual event you will have the opportunity to observe and participate in the governance of Conference. This shapes the movement as we continue to grow and are equipped to fulfil our mission together.

During the conference there are world class speakers, worship and opportunities to become more embedded in the Elim family through the workshops available that address many modern issues that the Church must face in the public square.



Online Portal

Those who are part of the Elim Network are given access to an intranet facility which provides a wealth of centrally developed high quality policies that help with conformity to GDPR, safeguarding, health and safety responsibilities - to name just a few.

Important guidance is also available in respect of other regulatory requirements that are increasingly important for modern charities to ensure compliance with the Charity Commission. Other issues include advice in relation to websites, photographs and images, risk assessments, fire safety, discounted software, first aid, and events and licences.



Pastoral Support

Relationship is the ground for good pastoral support. As in the local church setting, someone who asks for help can get it but conversely, those that don't ask can have little grounds for complaint. It is the same for us as leaders - in order to get the most out of the relationship we should be prepared to pro-actively invest too.

Consultancy & Advice

Elim has several departments that specialise in different areas, among them are:

Elim Prayer

Elim Prayer exists to equip, encourage and enable life-changing prayer throughout the Elim movement. They provide opportunities to get involved in corporate prayer

Reach

Reach is Elim's evangelism and church planting department providing advice, resources and evangelistic support for any that require assistance.

Limitless

Limitless seeks to pioneer youth ministries in church that do not currently have any. They gather a team, establish links with local schools and spend a year providing support and guidance to ensure longevity.

Elim International Missions

Elim International Missions are currently active in nearly 50 countries across the world, they seek to release and equip the local church to transform lives, communities and nations with the love of Christ. To do this they offer a Missionary Apprenticeship programme and various short-term mission opportunities to help support missionaries through giving and prayer support.

Regents Theological College

Regents Theological College is Elim's centre of excellence for theological training, equipping and the means by which the movement encourages lifelong learning. Many pastors have enriched their biblical understanding and depth of ministry through a Masters programme in Regents. This organisation also houses a world-class archive of the early Pentecostal movement in the British Isles.

For a full list of national departments and resources, visit our website: elim.org.uk



Expectations Of Member Churches, Ministers Or Ministries

Mutual relationship involves understanding what it means to belong. Although the Elim Network does not aim to control any local agenda, focus or vision, the integrity of the Network is dependent upon each constituent part engaging meaningfully. The following list outlines the expectations that the Elim Network has of those who have committed to be part of the Network:

- ▶ **Commitment to the same priorities and core values as outlined in Elim's vision statement**
- ▶ **Maintaining positive relationship with the Elim Regional Leader**
- ▶ **The local minister/s attendance at Elim's Annual Leadership Summit / Conference, or key leadership representation from a lay-led church**
- ▶ **Involvement in Elim regional events**
- ▶ **Ongoing legal compliance to national standards in relation to vital matters such as safeguarding, GDPR, charity law and health and safety**
- ▶ **Regular financial contribution**
- ▶ **Regular statistical reporting to enable clearer understanding of the reach and impact of the Network**

Covenant Relationship

Each church, minister or ministry that applies to join the Elim Network will be asked to enter into a covenant relationship with Elim based on the expectations outlined above. It is our conviction that at the heart of this covenant agreement is a meaningful and mutually committed relationship, which will be expressed in completing a covenant form. Every five years the leadership of the Elim Network will seek a recommitment to this covenant, thereby allowing a moment of mutual reflection and recommitment to the relationship together as part of the Network.



Financial Contributions To The Network

Churches

For churches, the minimum monthly financial contribution* is designed to be an appropriate amount based on the regular attendance at the church's largest gathering. This can be paid as a monthly direct debit or as an annual payment, whichever is preferable.

Attendance	Amount pcm (£)
Up to 100	45
100 to 300	65
300 to 700	85
700 to 1000	100
1000+	125

Ministries

For ministries who are members of the Network the minimum monthly financial contribution* will be based upon the amount of paid or financially supported staff each ministry has, as per the grid below.

Paid Staff	Amount pcm (£)
Up to 3	20
More than 3	50

*This is the minimum amount expected from churches and ministries. We are very grateful for those Network partners who choose to support the work and ministry of our Elim family by making larger contributions.



Leaders & Ministers

Those who have already been ordained as ministers in other denominations and who wish to be accepted as Elim Network ministers will follow a process of application designed to account for their experience and training.

It is possible for those who may be engaged in the pastoral ministry but who are not ordained to apply to be accepted as a Network Minister in Training working towards ordination. The regulations governing the acceptance of Network Ministers in Training are exactly the same as for those seeking acceptance into the Alliance ministry and information on the application process is available from the Director of Ministry upon request. Following the period of training, and provided that all theological studies are satisfactorily completed and the applicant is accepted by the Ministerial Selection

Board, Network Ministers in Training are accepted as Ministers by the Elim Network Leadership Team, who also have power to authorise their ordination.

Elim Ministers holding Network credentials will be subject to the same professional ministerial guidelines and disciplinary processes as those holding an EFGA credential (other than access to the EFGA Arbitration Board which is only available to EFGA ministers) and will also be expected to have a valid enhanced DBS certificate.

It is not the policy of the Alliance National Leadership Team to allow a Network minister who is pastoring a Network church to automatically transfer to the list of Alliance ministers. However, the Alliance National Leadership Team can consider such an application following the established process by which ministers are

able to acquire Alliance credentials.

It is standard practice for Network ministers and representatives of Network churches to be invited to participate in their local region, where they are afforded voting rights and can hold office, though not that of national leaders.

The Alliance national and regional leaders make themselves available for ministry and consultation to all Network churches and ministers as they do for Alliance churches.

Establishing guidelines is always helpful in creating greater clarity about the expectations that are reasonable for leaders wishing to be part of the Elim Network. Yet it is relationship that makes this great partnership work. That relationship, like any other, requires both parties to be committed and connected to each other.

The following are ways in which a Network minister can ensure that this relationship can be fostered and given opportunity to flourish:



Seek to meet regularly and build relationship with other Elim ministers within the area



Attend regional meetings arranged by his/her regional leader



Attend the annual Elim Leadership Summit & Conference and other national events arranged by the National Leadership Team



Encourage awareness of Elim within the local church or ministry

Today the Elim Network serves as a network for Pentecostal churches, ministries and leaders to share the vision, values and mission of the Elim Pentecostal Church, whilst retaining their historic and independent status. This provides opportunity to find greater levels of connection and support from a well-established movement like the Elim Pentecostal Church.

Stuart Blount

General Secretary, The Elim Network

Women Ministering In Elim

The Elim Network has been committed to facilitating Pentecostal ministry in the UK for over a century. Key to this commitment is the recognition of the work of the Holy Spirit in raising up both men and women through our churches who are called into the five-fold ministry. Any potential partner with the Elim Network should be aware that this is a core value of Elim and that men and women serving alongside each other equally in all aspects of leadership and ministry is something we urge all Network churches to seek to be committed to as part of their relationship with Elim.



Apply To Join The Elim Network

Having read the information provided here, any churches, ministers or ministries interested in more information or applying to join the Network should contact the Elim Network General Secretary at:

Phone: 0345 302 6750 **Email:** elimnetwork@elim.org.uk

Post: The Elim International Centre, De Walden Road, West Malvern, WR14 4DF

Appendix 1.

Benefits Of Being An Elim Alliance Church

As much as this document is seeking to explain the benefits of being part of the Elim Network, it may also be good for you to consider becoming fully engaged as an 'Alliance Elim Church'. The majority of churches in the UK who are part of Elim were planted as Alliance churches, but some have journeyed over years from the Elim Network to Alliance because they believed that was of greater benefit to them.

Listed below are some of the advantages of being an Alliance church:



Being part of a strong and unified movement of churches and leaders



Full membership of Elim's large consolidated single charity



Full governmental status within Elim, including a lay vote on all national and regional matters



Not needing local trustees as Elim's NLT serve as national trustees of the one charity



Central support and resourcing for major church projects not always available to Network churches



Access and support from longstanding insurance services tailored to the specific needs of Elim churches



Local church payroll management services



Workplace pension scheme for non-ministerial church staff (a national legal requirement)



Employment advice and intervention support (where necessary) through Elim's central HR department



Governmental oversight can be implemented for churches during difficult local situations and issues, including appropriate objective intervention from experienced regional and national leaders



Appendix 2.

Foundational Truths Of The Elim Pentecostal Church

The Bible:

We believe the Bible, as originally given, to be without error, the fully inspired and infallible Word of God and the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

The Trinity:

We believe that the Godhead exists co-equally and co-eternally in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that these three are one God, sovereign in creation, providence and redemption.

The Saviour:

We believe in the true and proper deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His real and complete humanity, in His sinless life, in His authoritative teaching, in His substitutionary and atoning sacrifice through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His heavenly intercession and His second advent to receive His Church.

The Holy Spirit:

We believe in the deity of the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son and the necessity of His work in conviction of sin, repentance, regeneration and sanctification, and that the believer is also promised an endowment of power as the gift of Christ through the baptism in the Holy Spirit with signs following. Through this endowment the believer is empowered for fuller participation in the ministry of the Church, its worship, evangelism and service.

Humanity:

We believe in the inherent dignity and value of every person, as created in God's image and likeness, male and female, to be in fellowship with God and serve God's purposes in creation. Yet on account of the universal sinfulness of all people due to the Fall, humanity is subject to God's righteous wrath and condemnation.

Salvation:

We believe in the necessity for salvation of repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by which the sinner is pardoned and accepted as righteous in God's sight. This justification is imputed by the grace of God because of

the atoning work of Christ, is received by faith alone and is evidenced by the Fruit of the Spirit and a holy life.

The Church:

We believe in the spiritual unity and the priesthood of all believers in Christ and that these comprise the universal Church, the Body of Christ

The Ministry:

We believe in the ministries that Christ has set in His Church, namely apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, and in the present operation of the manifold Gifts of the Holy Spirit according to the New Testament.

The Ordinances:

We believe in the baptism of believers in water in obedience to the command of Christ and the commemoration of Christ's death by the observance of the Lord's Supper until His return.

The Commission:

We believe that the Gospel embraces the needs of the whole man and that the Church is therefore commissioned to preach the gospel to the world and fulfil a ministry of healing and deliverance to the spiritual and physical needs of mankind.

The Coming King:

We believe in the personal, physical and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign in power and glory.

The Future State:

We believe in the resurrection of the dead and in the final judgement of the dead and in the final judgement of the world, the eternal conscious bliss of the righteous and the eternal conscious punishment of the wicked.



elim.org.uk

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