

APOSTOLIC DELIVERANCE FELLOWSHIP INC.

Apostle Marty R Strickland – Chief Presiding Prelate



What Is Apostolic Oversight Covering?

It will be easier to see what apostolic oversight is by first stating what it is not.

In 1 Thessalonians 2:1 the apostle Paul said; our coming to you was not in vain. The word "vain" expresses the hollowness of anything; Paul was saying their work was not void of content or power.

This word could also be translated "empty-handed." Paul was saying; we didn't come to take something away from you but to bring you something. This is the heart of apostolic oversight. It has nothing to do with what the apostle "receives" from the church; it has everything to do with what apostolic oversight brings to the church.

Apostolic oversight:

Is not a means for personal kingdom building. The issue is not quantity - "How many churches do you have in your network?" The issue is the quality of care for the local church and love for the saints.

Is not about money, it is not "a pretext for greed" (1Thess. 2:5). Paul denies that he ever used his ministry as a secret means of enriching himself. Apostolic oversight is not multi-level marketing for church planters where all resources work their way to the top.

Is not about human glory; "I'm Apostle so and so". Paul said; we have never sought honor from men, from you or from anybody else (1Thess. 2:6). Paul here is repudiating personal ambition. Paul never used his preaching to gain the honor, recognition and approval that men give.

Is not micro-managing the church. Paul actually did have authority, but he never abused it. Even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority (1Thess. 2:6). The only authority that exists in the church is Christ's authority. True apostles are not authoritarian or controlling. Authority is always to be used for the benefit of those under it, never for the personal benefit of those exercising it.

True apostolic oversight has to do with the function of a "father". Seeing the church as a father would see his own children.

Operating in the unconditional love, care and support, with the intention of training his

Children to be men and women of God, who would one day step into the role of fathering.

As we know, caring for children can be tiring work. Paul said; You remember brethren, our labor and toil, laboring day and night (1 Thess. 2:9).

True apostles will faithfully proclaim "The Gospel of God" without alteration or substitution, preparing the next generation to do the same.

Apostolic oversight is foundational. Paul said; I have laid a foundation and another builds on it (1 Cor. 3:10). The foundation of a building is out of sight, but it is the key to stability and the growth of the structure built on it. Many churches today have faulty foundations and as a result they continually struggle with the same problems. Jesus Christ himself is the Chief Cornerstone of the foundation (Eph. 2:20). Everything the church is and does has to be rightly related to Christ, because the church belongs to Him.

It is part of New Testament Christianity that churches are to be built up, equipped and matured through ongoing relationship with five-fold ministry. While in the first century this was done primarily through relationship with apostles who initially founded the churches, today many churches are discovering the importance of relating to apostles who may not have pioneered the church, yet provide a rich source of wisdom and strength through ongoing relationship. This is accomplished when a church moves beyond merely having fellowship and receiving ministry from apostles, into the place of identifying, recognizing and receiving oversight from an apostolic ministry. This can only occur where a relationship of trust has been established between a church and an apostolic ministry. Such a relationship takes time to establish.

The Benefits of Apostolic Covering

There is no reason for a church to have an apostolic covering if the church doesn't benefit from the relationship. If the only one receiving benefits is the apostle, something is wrong.

Following are some areas that a church and its leaders should benefit from apostolic covering:

Counsel - *In vision, helping to define it, refine it and articulate it. In doctrine, to help deal with doctrinal issues confronting a church or causing division in the church. In church discipline, this is especially helpful in difficult cases to avoid personal attacks against leadership when a member needs discipline.*

Protection - *This is to provide an atmosphere of safety and security for both the pastor and the people. To protect the people- if a leader falls into error or sin or becomes dictatorial, the*

Congregation knows they have someone to appeal to, helping to avoid a church split. To

Protect the pastor - At times the Pastor needs someone to speak on his behalf. He needs protection against false accusations.

Accountability - *Having apostolic covering gives the pastor someone to be accountable to, someone to talk to, relate to and just sound off to.*

Confirmation - *Apostolic covering can be used to confirm and ordain elders and other 5-fold gifts in the church. Having someone else to interview and confirm candidates for ministry can provide an objective view that is often missing in independent churches.*

Encouragement - *Visits by apostolic covering can bring encouragement and blessing to a local church.*

Commitment - *Apostolic covering doesn't work unless there is a level of commitment by a pastor and congregation. Every pastor knows the value and importance of commitment in the local church. A level of commitment is needed if you're going to entrust someone with ministry responsibility in the local church. As an apostolic network we have come to realize that there are some basic commitments a pastor and local church need to make to fully benefit from apostolic oversight:*

We provide a Spiritual Covering for Pastors, Churches, and other outreach ministries. Functioning together through Evangelism, Leadership Conferences, Church Planting and Short-term Mission efforts. We are not a Denomination, but rather a Fellowship.

Our Spiritual belief:

For individuals that want to join the A.D.F family and meet the requirements, we provide ministerial credentials. Those becoming licensed and ordained with A.D.F will receive an International Ordination. Those who are called to missionary work will receive an International

Missionary Ordination.

If you would like to come under the Spiritual Covering of A.D.F, partner with us in ministry send your request to:

Email: adfellowship1@gmail.com

Postal Service:

APOSTOLIC DELIVERANCE FELLOWSHIP
P.O. Box 3162
Loganville, Georgia, 30052
404-468-7639

Where to begin... How can you as a minister, church or ministry, join this type of Apostolic covering?

First, set aside a time to meet with the overseer or attend services that A.D.F may conduct throughout the year. This will provide an opportunity:

To increase vision

To build relationships

To encourage fellowship

To receive teaching and ministry

To connect with a global vision

To be personally strengthened and refreshed

Secondly, participate financially - One of the signs that a church is committed to A.D.F is regular financial support. As an apostolic ministry we believe that every participating church and ministry should be giving consistently.

Jesus taught that one of the evidences that people were receiving the Word of God was their willingness to support the messengers financially (Matthew 10:5-14).

We are cautious as an apostolic ministry regarding the subject of finances. We know there is much confusion and abuse in this area in the body of Christ.

We believe the laborer is worthy of his wages (1 Tim.5: 18) and that churches receiving ministry from the apostolic ministry should financially support the ministry.

As an International Ministry that is committed to reaching the nations, there are many things that need to be done that will require financial support.

We need to develop materials that are translated into different languages to minister to the nations.

We need to develop materials that can be used by A.D.F churches for the discipline and training of people in the local church.

We need to provide for administrative expenses including; office expenses, printing costs, mailing costs, web site maintenance, and hosting the national conference.

Our desire as an International Ministry is to be a resource center that will be able to provide support for local churches both here and abroad. Overseas Churches desperately need our support. All of this requires finances.

Practical Steps for Entering A.D.F

Begin to build a relationship with members of the A.D.F ministry.

Talk to your leaders and the church about having apostolic oversight.

Have someone from A.D.F come and teach on apostolic oversight.

Pray and ask God for insight concerning being under Apostolic covering.

Fill out, and submit an application.

Code of Ethics

It is a requirement that every member of A.D.F accept and adhere to the following ministerial ethics:

Each member has a right to their own style and personality as they follow Christ.

To conduct ones affairs in: morals, finances, and business relations with a high degree of Christian integrity.

To maintain a teachable spirit towards the other leaders of the Fellowship.

To speak in a respectful and edifying manner where other members of the Fellowship are concerned.

To abstain, directly or indirectly, in any issue that would cause a church split.

To not sow seeds of discord among the body by gossip, rumors and opinionated criticism.

To abstain from the consumption or use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, adultery and youth pornography/sexual activities

To pursue a Christian relationship with other members of the Fellowship.

To respect the rights of others and allow them to be different, as long as their actions comply with the written Word of God.

To support and give your loyalty to any pastor under which you may serve.

To deal justly as the Scriptures command concerning all areas of fellowship, relationships, unity and brotherly love.

To follow the procedure as commanded in the Scriptures when faced with a brother or sister who is in violation of these ethics or any other Biblical moral standard.

To agree to adhere to our statement of faith and ministerial Ethics.

VISION

God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world.

MISSION

Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, introduce others to the Lord, teach them to obey His Word, and nurture spiritual growth in all believers.

PURPOSE

The purpose is to motivate and support individuals, nations and ministries to walk in God's complete purpose. To provide training, services, resources, and materials to assist congregations and members in accomplishing the Mission.

APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP MEMBERSHIP

(Please read this document before proceeding to application)

The decision to unite a ministry within an established organization is not to be done ill advisedly or without careful thought, prayer and an information base. The overall desire is to provide for the Pastor and congregation a method by which they may grow into their new prospective family, hence making the transition flow as smoothly as possible. A church can be implemented into three associations.

They are as follows:

Fellowship: a sharing of beliefs, religious experiences, other matters of common interest and mutual participation. The act of formal fellowship shall be considered the first phase of an expressed desire toward full membership with A.D.F. and A.D.F after a 6 month probation period.

Requirements for fellowship

I. Local Requirements:

- A. The local church or group of churches is asks to fellowship with the State Conference as well as to attend, participate and fellowship with the local body.
- B. The Pastor of the local church or churches shall be required to pay tithes to A.D.F through electronic transfer or through U.S. mail. If the pastor receives a salary said pastor is to tithe to A.D.F
- C. All international applicants review will be over voice/video call by said apostle
- D. Fellowship churches shall embrace all beliefs, creeds and dogma of the A.D.F
- E. Upon application being returned to A.D.F, said organization will visit applicant to review application for question and clarification.

I affirm that I have read and understood the aforementioned information.

Print: _____ Date: _____

Sign: _____ Date: _____

Application

Name of church or Ministry: _____

Address: _____ Mailing Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Email Address: _____ Website: _____

Founding Date of Church/Ministry: _____

Are you the founder of this church and/or organization? _____

Is Church/Ministry Incorporated? _____ If yes, date and state: _____

Name of Pastor/Director: _____

Address: _____ Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Single (yes) (No) Marriage Ann. Date: _____

Are you born again? (Romans 10:9-10) _____

Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:4) _____

When were you ordained? _____

With who are you licensed? _____

What is the approximate size of your congregation? _____

If you are bringing with you more than one church what is the approximate membership of your organized?

If you have churches under you, do they comprise YOUR organization, OR are you just Their COVERING?

Are you in a building program or are you getting ready to purchase a new edifice?

How long have you pastored/directed this ministry? _____

Family: _____

Years in Ministry: _____

Talents/Skill _____

Accomplishments: _____

What is the vision of your church/ministry?

What is the governmental structure of your church?
Is the pastor the head or leader of the church? _____
Is the deacon board the final say in church matters? _____
Is the board the controlling factor in the church? _____
Is your church set up on Baptist style of government? Please Explain

Is your church set up Methodist style of government? Please Explain

If your church is independent, who has the final say? _____
Are you familiar with organizations that are governed by Apostles, Overseer?

Does the church/ministry have a duly stated dissolution declaration? _____

Has the declaration been adopted by the church? _____

Are you willing to submit to the authority of the **A.D.F?** _____

Have you completely read our manual? _____

Do you agree with our doctrinal stance? _____

Is your ministry separating because of dissention? _____

Are you willing to submit yourself to the Presiding Prelate? _____

Are you willing to support the **A.D.F** through tithing? _____

Are you willing to support **A.D.F** Conference? _____

Are you a tax-exempt organization? _____

Do you believe in tithing? _____

Do your members tithe? _____

Are you apart of another organization or hold a position? Yes ___ No ___ if so, Name of organization _____ Position _____

What are you bringing to **A.D.F**? _____

How can we assist your church? _____

How can we assist you as a shepherd? _____

What do you expect to receive from **A.D.F**? _____

Two (2) Personal references
One (1) ministerial reference

Fellowship application fee \$50.00 (NON REFUNDABLE)

Have you read and understood the terms outlined in this document so that you have a good knowledge of what you are agreeing to?

Print: _____ Date _____

Sign: _____ Date _____

I _____
(Name/Title)

Of _____

Do now enter and Agreement of Affiliation with **A.D.F** under the leadership of Apostle Marty Strickland who is now my Apostle and Presiding Prelate of the Church/Ministry that God has made me pastor of. In that he is an ordained man of God, the Word of God requires me to entreat him as a Father. The members and I of the Church/Ministry will honor, respect, and support **A.D.F**, Apostle Marty Strickland and all other affiliate ministers and churches.

As with any other Ministry Organization, the members and I of the abovementioned Church/Ministry would avail to the Following:

1. Fellowship with other affiliate churches of **A.D.F**.
2. Reaching out to assist Apostle Marty Strickland in areas of ministry through tithing, evangelism, and other outreach function.
3. Seek Godly counseling from the man that God has anointed "to watch over my soul", remembering that there is safety in the multitude of counselors.
4. Initiation fee (By the Discretion of Governing Board)

As an affiliate of **A.D.F**, you are not responsible for any indebtedness of **A.D.F**, Apostle Marty Strickland or any other affiliate ministry. You are however responsible for any debt that you incur on behalf of your ministry. **A.D.F** will support your ministry by:

1. Supporting functions or programs sponsored by your ministry, when we are available.
2. Providing necessary documents for Ordination and Ministry Licenses.
3. Providing spiritual guidance and counseling.

I, the undersigned have read the above Agreement of affiliate and will keep the agreement, to the best of my ability with **A.D.F**.

Print: _____ Date: _____

Sign: _____ Date: _____

I, Apostle Marty Strickland Presiding Prelate, do now receive you and your Church/Ministry as an affiliate member of **A.D.F**. Apostle Marty Strickland holds the right to dismiss any of affiliate of **A.D.F**.

Print: _____ Date: _____

Sign: _____ Date: _____