

ACTS FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL HANDBOOK



Acts Fellowship International

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Letter From The President

Dear AFI Member,

I want to welcome you into the fellowship of Acts Fellowship International (AFI). The Lord raised up AFI so that men and women preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ could have a means of fellowship, Godly counsel, and encouragement.

Please read the contents of this Handbook carefully. Your understanding and compliance with the communication and accountability systems of AFI are vitally important in order to flow together in harmony.

The AFI office staff and leadership are prepared to assist you in your ministry. We want you to know that you are not alone. We stand with you and pray for your success in life and ministry.

We appreciate your desire to be a part of AFI and we consider it a privilege to have you as a member. May God's richest and best be yours as we serve the Lord together.

In His Love And Spirit,
Randall Grier

Statement of Purpose

MISSION

Network, connect, and teach ministers and Christians and churches in His Word and Spirit for the speedy advancement of the Kingdom of God.

VISION

To lead the church in His Word and Spirit while preserving sound Bible doctrine for the present and future generations, as we make ready a people prepared for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Purpose

1. To provide a means of unity, strength, and fellowship among members of AFI who desire to flow with the Word and Spirit.
2. To assist AFI ministers in reaching their most effective potential in the ministry to which God has called them.
3. To recognize ministers who have proven themselves through membership with AFI.
4. To supply a means of Godly encouragement and counsel to ministers in accuracy of doctrine and integrity of character.
5. Assist with continuing spiritual education and insight about the times we live in.

Definition of Terms

AFI

Acts Fellowship International

Ministerial Credentials

Ministerial credentials pertain to the kind of membership of AFI members - Ordained, Licensed, or Acts Kingdom Builder.

Acts Kingdom Builder

A Christian, not in the five-fold ministry, who desires membership in AFI to help in reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This includes those in the Ministry of Helps.

AFI Director

A minister who assists with the care of members and member churches. A director is responsible for the coordination and operation of all activities pertaining to AFI and its members in their care.

Member

A person who has been approved and accepted as a member of AFI whether by ordination, licensing, or Acts Kingdom Builder status.

Kinds of Membership

Ordination

Ordination is intended for those ministers who are working in five-fold ministry, have proven ministry experience, and are generally serving in full-time ministry.

Ministerial Licensing

This level of licensing is intended for those individuals who are beginning in ministry or working part-time or full-time in five-fold ministry.

Acts Kingdom Builder

Acts Kingdom Builder (AKB) is a level of membership for Christians who have a desire to join with AFI and help see the heavenly vision fulfilled. Their desire is to help AFI accomplish the will of God in the earth.

Benefits of Membership

Ministerial Support

Through the encouragement of AFI leadership and others, as well as through regional ministry which is available during times of opportunity, stress and/or crisis.

Fellowship

Members of AFI enjoy opportunities to build relationships through fellowship and meetings.

Continuing Ministerial Education

AFI provides occasions throughout the year for ministers to continue practical training to enhance their ministerial education and spiritual development through teaching and other resources.

Organizational Structure

AFI provides a network of ministers\Christians who desire to build their ministry on the Word and Spirit. This organizational structure facilitates the last day move of God, which will usher in the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sound Bible Doctrine

It is of utmost importance that ministers\Christians maintain and practice sound Biblical doctrine. Cultural trends of society are not moves of God as many think. Any Bible doctrine taken to the extreme becomes error. AFI protects its members from extremes in unbiblical doctrines and worship by strict adherence to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

Membership Information

Membership Application

Any minister interested in becoming a member of AFI shall complete the AFI application packet for the membership level they are requesting (Ordination, Licensing, or AKB), and return it to the AFI office along with their application fee and dues. Applicants whose applications are so approved shall become active members of AFI.

Qualifications

An applicant shall give clear evidence of his/her agreement with the Tenets of Faith and the policies set forth in this handbook. Also, he/she must conduct themselves in line with the spiritual qualifications given for leadership in I Timothy 2:3-7 and Titus 1:1-8.

Resignation

Any member may withdraw from AFI after fulfilling all obligations to it by giving written notice of such intention to the home office.

Suspension/Revocation

AFI reserves the right to suspend or revoke a member's license, ordination, or AKB status with AFI for cause such as violation of any of the policies or rules of the corporation, or for conduct prejudicial to the best interest of AFI, and the written Word of God.

Membership Expectations

AFI endeavors to personally know those who are a part of the membership. Some expectations are listed below.

- Attend Regional AFI meetings.
- Participate in AFI outreaches/projects prayerfully and financially.
- Build relationships with members in his/her region and with the Regional Director. Respond to contacts from the Director in a timely manner.
- Members are expected to live their lives and conduct their ministries above reproach according to the Word of God.
- Manage your finances wisely and do not incur excessive debt in your personal life, church or ministry. AFI expects you to pay your bills on time. The ‘sign it and God will pay it’ mentality has gotten many into financial trouble and bankruptcy. Make all financial decisions prayerfully and wisely.
- Avoid the very appearance of evil. Never be in a position where your actions could be called into question.
- Pray and seek the Lord Jesus Christ daily.
- Read, study and meditate on the Bible and apply it to your life.
- Exercise your faith to move forward in life and ministry daily. The Bible teaches us to be content, but always strive to grow and develop more in Him each day.

Tenets of Faith & Doctrine

AFI accepts the Scriptures as the revealed will of God and the all sufficient rule of faith and practice. For the purpose of maintaining general unity, AFI adopts the following Statements of Fundamental Truths and Doctrine.

1. **The Bible:** We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. It tells us of God's covenant (contract) with mankind. All doctrine and correction within the church are established and carried out by the Bible. (2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13)

2. **Love:** We believe that love is the most important attribute of the Christian faith. We love those who oppose us as well as one another. Love is the character of God, and is more important than any gift, sign, or miracle in the Christian life. (1 Corinthians 13; 1 John 4:7-12; Mark 12:28-31)

3. **Salvation:** We believe that you receive eternal life by believing that Jesus Christ died, shed His blood on your behalf, and rose again from the dead. You affirm your faith in this fact by praying to our Father God in Jesus' name, and pledging to serve Jesus Christ as Lord and King of your life. God's salvation extends to all the human race regardless of skin color or nationality. (John 3:16; Romans 10:8-10; Ephesians 2:8)

4. **Faith Is Expressed with Action:** We believe that proclaimed faith in Christ without a corresponding Christian lifestyle is futile and self-deceptive. True faith in Christ must be professed in word and demonstrated in act. When you are born again, you immediately begin to put off the old life and put on the new, day by day. (James 2:14-26; Matthew 7:13-27; Romans 12:2, 6:1-23; Ephesians 5:1-16; 2 Peter 1:4-10)

5. **Water Baptism:** We believe in water baptism by immersion. Water baptism is an outward expression of the inward work that took place in your spirit when you were born again. Being buried in water symbolizes dying to your old life and coming up out of the water symbolizes being born again to live a new Christian life. (Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 2:38, 8:35-38)

6. **Holy Spirit Baptism:** We believe that Baptism in the Holy Spirit is for every Christian today. Christians were baptized in water and the Holy Spirit in the Bible. If water baptism is still for today, then Holy Spirit baptism is still for today. Those filled with the Holy Spirit in the Bible spoke with other tongues. A person who is baptized with the Holy Spirit today will speak with other tongues. This experience is received subsequent to salvation. (Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-18)

7. **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit:** We believe that the gifts of the Spirit are supernatural endowments of God to bring blessing and revelation to the church. These gifts are accompanied with miracles, signs, and wonders. Each Spirit-filled believer can experience these gifts in their life. (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

8. **Divine Healing:** We believe that God provided divine healing and health in the atoning work of Christ. Sickness is not from God, but it came into the earth through man's disobedience to God. Satan is the author of all sickness and death. Jesus came to free the human race from sickness and give us eternal life. Laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and the gifts of the Spirit are ways divine healing is administered in the church. (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; 1 Peter 2:24; Acts 10:38; Luke 13:10-16; Genesis 3:1-24)

9. **The Confession of God's Word:** We believe that the confession of God's Word is an integral part of Christianity. The confession of God's Word is not to make God do anything for you. All the

promises of God already belong to the Christian, but you must obtain them by faith. The purpose of confession is to get you in faith and keep you in faith until the manifestation comes. Confession is for your benefit, not God's. (Matthew 21:21; Mark 11:23, 5:25-34; Hebrew 11:3; Romans 10:17; 2 Corinthians 1:20)

10. The Trinity of the Godhead: We believe that God is one, but manifested in three persons. The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, with all being co-equal. (Matthew 3:16-17; John 14:7-11; Philippians 2:6; Revelation 5:1-14)

11. The Return of Jesus Christ for the Saints: We believe that Jesus will descend from heaven into the clouds of earth. Christians who are buried will be raised from the dead and given immortal bodies. They will ascend to meet the Lord in the air. Christians that are alive will be changed from mortal to immortal and ascend to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; 1 Corinthians 15: 42-55)

12. The Millennial Reign of Christ on Earth: We believe after the tribulation period, Jesus will return to reign on earth for one thousand years. The saints will return with Christ and rule with Him. During this thousand years, Satan will be bound and not able to deceive the people on earth. (Revelation 20:1-4)

13. Forgiveness of Sin for Christians: We believe that once you are born again and commit sin, that you can be forgiven. You must forgive all those who have wronged you in order for God to forgive you. You must confess your sin to God and turn away from it, fully intent on not committing sin again. (1 John 1:9; Mark 11:25-26)

14. The Reality of Hell: We believe those who physically die without Jesus Christ as their Lord spend forever in the lake of fire

being tormented day and night. Hell was made for Satan and the fallen angels, but all people who choose to follow Satan will go to the lake of fire with him. (Matthew 5:22-30; Luke 16:19-24; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 20:10)

15. Giving Financially: We believe that the church is to be supported with tithes and offerings. Each week Christian church members tithe one tenth of their income toward the support of the church because of their love for God. Christians are also instructed to give offerings to the Lord for the building of the church and the Kingdom of God throughout the world. Tithes and offerings to God have been carried out since the beginning. Giving tithes and offerings places you in a position to reap financial blessings. It is called sowing and reaping in the Bible. A farmer only reaps what he plants. We believe in sowing into Biblical ministries that are reaching the world for Christ. (Genesis 4:3-5, 8:20-22, 14:18-20, 28:20-22; Malachi 3:7-10; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9: 6-11)

16. Pastoral Leadership: Jesus said that the people fainted and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd. Pastors are referred to in the Bible as shepherds. Pastors are to lead people into a successful Christian life. This is God's chain of authority in the Bible. God used individuals such as Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Jesus, Peter, James, John, Paul, Timothy, etc. to lead His people. We believe the pastor is the leader of the local church who seeks the Lord for the direction of the church. He shares this direction with the people through Biblical preaching and teaching. As the expressed authority of God to the local church, it is imperative that the pastor lead the people as God leads him. In this responsibility, there should be no compromise. (Matthew 9:36; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-13; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 4:12, 5:17; Titus 1:5-11)

17. Ministry of Helps: We believe that each person in the body of Christ has a special ministry to fulfill. When each person flows in their ministry, the church runs as one anointed operation to meet the needs of the people. The ministry of helps allows the pastor \minister to be in a position to spend more time in prayer and the ministry of the Word. We believe every church should assist each Christian in finding their place and fulfilling their ministry with joy. (Numbers 11:16-17; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:1-7; Luke 10:1-2)

18. Five-Fold Ministry Offices: We believe that the Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher are ministry offices that are still in operation today. No one ministry office is superior to the others. They are all equal and necessary in the Body of Christ. They are for the perfecting of the saints and are supernatural, endowed with the gifts of the Spirit. The church will never mature until all these offices are in their place and impart anointings and revelations to the church world. (Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Corinthians Chapter 12)

19. Ministers' Dress and Appearance: Men and women should dress to respect God and the office they are called to. They are to Respect and Reverence their office of Ministry. Men should dress dignified in the pulpit, appropriate to respectable, dignified dress of the country they reside in. Listen to the Spirit of God. He will lead you into a disciplined lifestyle. Women should dress modestly and not wear clothes that are revealing in any way. The Rock Star/Stripper mentality has no place in the Kingdom of God. Tattoos, body piercings and weird hairstyles are the way of the world and are to be avoided. The Bible teaches ministers should be dignified and disciplined in dress, appearance and conduct. (1 Timothy 3:1-7 Amp.; James 3:1; Exodus 28:2, 29:29, 31:10, 35:10; Proverbs 7:1-23; Deuteronomy 14:1; 1 Kings 18:28; Leviticus 19:28, 21:5; Revelation 13:16, 17:5, 19:20)

20. Marriage And Sexual Relations: The Church shall not sanction or conduct any marriage between persons of the same gender. God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family, the basic structure of human society (Genesis 2:24). For this reason, homosexuality, and all other “sexual preferences” or “orientations” are unnatural, sinful and unacceptable to God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:9-11). God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in other than in the context of marriage between a man and a woman. (Genesis 19:5, 26:8-11; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

21. Homosexuality And Other Sexual Perversions: Any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, fornication, adultery, and pornography use are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex between a man and a woman in marriage. Homosexuality is sin, detestable to God, and inconsistent with the Christian life. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Leviticus 18:22, 20:13)

Membership Dues

Annual Dues

As a ministerial association, AFI has annual dues to continue the work of the ministry.

Payment of Dues

Dues shall be payable in advance on the last day of December in each fiscal year. Dues of a new member elected to membership after October 1st of the current fiscal year shall be applied to the following fiscal year.

Default and Termination of Membership

When any member shall be in default in payment of dues for a period of one month from the beginning of the fiscal year or period for which such dues became payable, membership will thereupon be terminated according to the policies of AFI. Furthermore, any member wishing to turn in their credentials with AFI will forfeit their payment for that fiscal year.

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of AFI shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December.

Ministry Credentials

Ministerial Licensing and Ordination

AFI ordains or licenses, as defined below, a person as a minister of the Gospel. AFI examines the applicant's background, moral and religious character, and previous Bible courses and/or independent study the applicant has received. Final determination shall be within the absolute discretion of the Director and President of AFI.

Licensing

Licensing is for a minister with no prior experience or who is new to AFI. Ministerial Licensing is for those individuals who are working part-time or full-time in five-fold ministry. In order to apply for ministerial ordination, one must be licensed for a period of at least one (1) year and/or demonstrate the qualifications for an ordained minister. A review of previous ministry activities will be required.

Ordination

Ordination is intended for those ministers who are working in five-fold ministry, have proven ministry experience, and are generally serving in full-time ministry. Once an individual has held a ministerial license for a one (1) year period, he or she shall become eligible to apply for ordination.

Questions & Answers

1. What must I do to apply for membership with AFI?

Step 1: Fill out the application packet found online or requested from the AFI office.

Step 2: Complete the application packet and mail it along with fees and dues to the AFI office.

Step 3: Have recommendation forms sent directly to the AFI Office.

Step 4: AFI Leadership will contact you for an interview to discuss any questions AFI or you might have.

Step 5: A decision will be made by AFI as to the applicant's eligibility to receive credentials from AFI, as well as the credential level (whether AKB, Ministerial License, or Ordination) issued to the applicant.

Step 6: The applicant is notified of the decision by mail and/or phone.

2. Who is qualified to receive ministerial credentials?

All believers are called to minister because every believer is commanded to share the Gospel with the lost. However, ministerial credentials pertain to those believers who have the responsibility of fulfilling five-fold ministry (Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor or Teacher). His/her function differs from an "Acts Kingdom Builder" or a person serving in the ministry of helps in that a five-fold minister is recognized by civil authorities. He/she requires a higher level of accountability.

Moral Qualifications

In order for a person to assume a leadership role in the Christian ministry, we feel that the highest standards of personal conduct are expected. This includes managing a happy and healthy home life and abstinence from the use of tobacco, alcohol (including wine), and/or illegal drugs.

The Bible establishes the spiritual and moral qualifications of five-fold ministers/elders in 1 Timothy 3:2-7, as well as Titus 1:1-8:

- Blameless (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Temperate (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Sober (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Of good behavior (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not given to wine (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not a striker (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not greedy of money (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not a brawler (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not covetous (1 Timothy 3:3)
- A lover of good (1 Timothy 1:8)

Eligibility for Licensing/Ordination

AFI uses the following criteria to test eligibility:

- One who has a divine call to a five-fold ministry.
- One who is in full-time/part-time ministry.
- One who has demonstrated this call.
- The minister must have studied and shown himself approved in handling the Word of God accurately.
- Others have recognized the call on the minister's life.
- The minister must maintain compliance with AFI policies concerning doctrine and ethical standards.

- The minister must exhibit the proper fruit in character and ministry.
- The minister must devote significant time to preaching and teaching the Word of God from a recognized ministerial position requiring five-fold ministry.
- The minister should by virtue of his office, administer the ordinances of the church and conduct weddings/funerals.
- Except in church planting, a minister should derive most of his income from his ministerial duties.

The above mentioned requirements should not be construed as to minimize the importance of individuals who are involved in other forms of ministry; however, AFI recognizes the need for establishing minimum requirements for those who intend to receive ministerial credentials.

AFI recognizes ministers from other fellowships, but transfer of a minister's credentials will not be accepted unless the minister meets the requirements as set forth in this handbook.

3. What is the difference between Ministerial Licensing, and Ordination?

Ministerial Licensing is for those individuals who are working part-time or full-time in five-fold ministry.

Ordination is intended for those ministers who are working in five-fold ministry, have proven ministry experience, and are generally serving in full-time ministry. Individuals must have held ministerial licensing with AFI for a period of at least one (1) year and must meet the requirements of an Ordained Minister to request Ordination status. Some exceptions may apply to this rule by AFI leadership.

4. Do I need to renew my membership annually?

Yes. If initial application to AFI has been submitted prior to October 1st, a renewal application must be completed and returned to the AFI office with dues payable for the following fiscal year postmarked no later than December 31st.

5. May I hold credentials with AFI and another licensing/ordaining body?

Yes. There may be situations where a minister is credentialed through another organization and wishes to enjoy the benefits of licensing/ordination with AFI as well.

6. Can I be a member of AFI without having ministerial credentials?

Yes. If you are a Christian and desire to help AFI advance the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, you may apply for “Acts Kingdom Builder.”

Communication and Information

There are Regional Directors in AFI. These directors represent the President of AFI in the coordination and operation of all activities pertaining to AFI.

Members of AFI are encouraged to communicate with their Director to allow them to assist in answering questions, meeting needs, and give their prayerful support.

AFI Directors



Rev. Randall Grier



Rev. Patti Grier



Rev. Jill Hodges



Pastor Jason Wallace



Pastor Sonny Jones



Pastor David Hodges

Contact Information

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