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## Statement of Faith

**iMap will expect all agencies who desire to work in partnership with it in the promotion of mission in and from Ireland, to accept the following Statement of Faith as an agreed basis for our partnership in the Gospel:**

**We believe that there is only one living and true God; who exists in three equal and eternal, yet distinct persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit; who is the Creator and Sustainer of all things; who has graciously revealed Himself to humanity; and who acts in His Son Jesus Christ to redeem His Creation.**

**We believe in the eternal deity and sinless humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ; his miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His birth of the Virgin Mary; His atoning death in our place as the only perfect sacrifice for sin offered once-for-all; His bodily resurrection and ascension; His unique position as the only mediator between God and his people; and His personal return in glory.**

**We believe in the verbal inspiration and final authority of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as originally given by God, expressing the mind of God for all of life and providing us with the only reliable guide in all matters of faith and practice.**

**We believe in the universal sinfulness and guilt of all humanity since the fall, putting everyone under God's wrath and condemnation. Redemption from sin and justification before God is an act of His mercy, in which sinners are pardoned for all their sins and accepted as righteous in God's sight by grace, through faith alone in Christ alone.**

**We believe that the Holy Spirit makes the work of Christ effective to individual sinners, enabling them to turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; and that the Holy Spirit indwells all those who are born again producing in them an increasing likeness to Christ in character and behaviour, empowering and equipping them for witness in the world.**

**We believe in the bodily resurrection and judgment for all, which will result in eternal joy and fulfilment for those who are saved, but eternal conscious condemnation for those who are lost.**

**We believe that the Church is the body of Christ of which He is the head. Local churches should be a model of the universal church which is made up of all believers of all time who come from every nation, tribe, people and language which will one day be complete around God's throne in heaven. We gladly accept the Commission of Christ to proclaim the Good News to all people, to make disciples of Christ, and to teach them to obey Him; We also accept the Command of Christ to love our neighbours, believing that this will result in service to the church and society and a desire to spread God's justice in an unjust world, until Christ comes again.**

## Constitution

### Five aims of iMAP:

- 1. To operate a centre for the promotion of mission at home and overseas.**
- 2. To maintain a web-site advertising service opportunities, prayer points, regional events and mission resources.**
- 3. To act as a clearing house for mission agencies who send personnel overseas.**
- 4. To assist our partners in mission to network effectively.**
- 5. To provide biblical and practical resources to engage Irish churches in mission.**

### iMAP Structure:

#### A. iMap

iMap shall be a partnership of mission agencies (Partners in Mission) and church representatives who subscribe to the iMap Statement of Faith and, in the case of mission agencies, pay an annual subscription.

iMap shall offer a range of services to the Partners in Mission. PiMs shall be able to 'buy in' to whichever services they require. This shall be reflected in their annual subscription.

## **B. iMap Partner Group**

The iMap Partner Group shall be made up of one member from each partner in mission and one church representative from each church-grouping linked with iMap.

It will be at the discretion of the iMap Executive Board to invite key individuals from a spectrum of church groupings to become iMap church representatives, to sit on the iMap Partner Group and, if subsequently elected, to serve on the iMap Executive Board.

Church representatives shall be representative of, but not necessarily appointed by, their church body or denomination. The spectrum of churches shall include the following:

**Assemblies of God Churches (AoG)**

**Association of Baptist Churches in Ireland (ABCinI)**

**Church of Ireland (CofI)**

**Elim Pentecostal Churches (Elim)**

**Immigrant Churches (e.g. Redeemed Church of God, Nigeria)**

**Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI)**

**Plumblin Ministries (PMI)**

**Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI)**

**Aontas (AIEC)** and **Evangelical Alliance Ireland (EAI)**, although not church bodies, are representative of groups of evangelicals in the Republic of Ireland, and shall therefore each be invited to nominate one of their members to the iMap Partner Group. These shall be regarded as iMap church representatives.

The iMap Partner Group shall meet twice each year in April and October to receive reports on the operations of iMap, financial statements, and to agree the way ahead.

The iMap Partner Group shall be responsible for electing the iMap Executive Board, and for appointing employees of iMap, on the recommendation of the Board.

The level of subscriptions shall be reviewed annually by the Executive Board and shall be determined by the Partner Group.

A two-thirds majority of those present and voting shall be required to carry any motion. For a meeting of the Partner Group to be quorate, at least half of all members should be present.

### **C. iMap Executive Board**

The iMap Executive Board shall be elected by the iMap Partner Group.

The iMap Executive Board shall meet 4 times each year in addition to any meetings of the iMap Partner Group.

The iMap Executive Board shall consist of 8 members – at least 2 of whom shall be mission representatives and at least 2 of whom shall be church representatives.

Employees of iMap shall be non-executive members of the Board, having voice, but no vote.

Two members of the iMap Executive Board (one church representative and one mission representative) shall stand down at the end of each year, but shall be eligible for re-election.

New iMap Executive Board members shall be elected from within the iMap Partner Group. This election shall take place at the October meeting each year.

Nominations for the iMap Executive Board shall be received in writing at least 2 weeks prior to the October meeting of the iMap Partner Group.

Those wishing to nominate must ask their candidate's permission to submit their name, prior to doing so.

All nominations shall be placed on the ballot paper, and voting shall be by secret ballot. A candidate must receive the votes of at least two-thirds of those present and voting to be deemed elected.

Once elected, the iMap Executive Board shall appoint, from within their own number, a chair-person, a secretary, a treasurer and assistant treasurer to serve for the in-coming year. These positions shall be filled annually and all office holders shall be eligible for re-appointment.

These four officers shall be regarded as the Trustees of iMap and their details shall be notified to the Charity Commissioners on an annual basis.

Employees of iMap are not permitted to be Trustees of iMap.

The secretary, treasurer and assistant treasurer shall be authorised as signatories for all banking matters – the signatures of any two of them will be required to authorise any financial transaction.

The iMap Executive Board shall ask members of the Partner Group to form Action Groups to look after various areas of responsibility on an ad hoc basis.

#### **D. iMap Partnership**

When a mission agency desires to join the iMap Partnership, the iMap Statement of Faith and Constitution shall first of all be forwarded to the mission and a meeting arranged to discuss with iMap representatives the aims and objectives of iMap.

The Board or Council of the mission agency shall then put in writing their acceptance of the iMap Statement of Faith and Constitution, and their request to join the iMap Partnership.

The next meeting of the iMap Executive Board shall discuss the application and decide whether or not to accept the new Partner in Mission.

If accepted, this shall be communicated to the mission agency, requesting their first iMap subscription. Upon receipt of this payment the mission shall become an iMap Partner in Mission (PiM).

#### **F. iMap as a Charitable Body**

Irish Mission Agencies Partnership (iMap) is regarded as a charitable body by the Republic of Ireland Revenue Commissioners, having been granted CHY18021 on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2008. After 10<sup>th</sup> April 2010 iMap shall apply to the Revenue Commissioners for authorisation as an 'eligible charity' and once that is obtained they will be able to claim tax relief on all eligible donations given after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010.

iMap holds two bank accounts with the Allied Irish Bank, Drumcondra, and shall keep proper financial records, and submit annual accounts when requested, to the Revenue Commissioners.

As well as receiving annual subscriptions from its Partners in Mission, the iMap Executive Board shall make arrangements for an annual appeal letter to go out to churches, via the church representatives. The proceeds from annual subscriptions, church appeals, and agreed administration charges on donations processed by iMap for its Partners in Mission, shall be used to cover the running costs of iMap.

### **G. Alterations to the iMap Statement of Faith and Constitution**

Any changes to this Constitution must be put in writing at least 2 weeks prior to the next meeting of the iMap Executive Board. Having discussed the issue, the Executive Board shall then formulate a proposal to change the Constitution, which shall be brought to the next meeting of the iMap Partner Group. The proposed change(s) shall be presented by the iMap Executive Board to the Partner Group, and shall be put to a ballot vote. A two-thirds majority of the full Partner Group shall be required to alter the Statement of Faith or Constitution.