



COTN

CHURCH OF THE NATIONS

Values & Procedures

*A Family of Apostolic Clusters
Advancing the Kingdom of God.*

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20



History HOW IT STARTED

1978

During a prayer time in 1978, a seed was planted for what has become Church of the Nations (CotN) - ministry hubs that would win, train and send people to places where the hurting would be healed, captives freed, and lives restored to live in the destiny God had purposed for them. These hubs were to serve other centres, so that multiplication could take place.

1979

In 1979, it became clear that the vision was really to plant and establish churches and ministries. In September of that year, a church - Abundant Life Ministries - was established in England. The foundation of what was to become CotN had been laid. Church planting began and God joined hearts in covenant relationships around the world.

1989

An international conference was held in the United Kingdom in 1989 and that which had been operating to date under various names, came together under the name of Church of the Nations. Our second decade had begun, a decade characterised by multiplication. CotN was watched over by an International Team served by a presbytery comprising four men. New church plants were taking place, already established churches were also being added to the family and new nations were opening up to us. Towards the end of this decade, the leadership realised that CotN had come of age and, entering our third decade and a new millennium, required structure to be put in place that would serve the growth being experienced.

1999

In October 1999, the International team met in London to finalise this desired structure. While fine-tuning this in the months that followed, CotN began to operate in this structure, based on the Old Testament concept of family, cluster (clan), tribe, nation, and already enjoyed the fruit of it.

2009

At its meeting in Plymouth in the UK in 2009, the Apostolic Council (which was now responsible for watching over Church of the Nations), changed the mission declaration of CotN from - An Apostolic family of clusters, building a family of churches, reaching the nations - to - A family of Apostolic Clusters, Advancing the kingdom of God. This new emphasis acknowledged that the growth and multiplication within CotN necessitated governmental responsibility needed to be shifted from the Apostolic Council to the leadership of each individual cluster. The Apostolic Council now comprised all cluster leaders and its role is defined in our structure.

2025

Recognising that this is the manner in which CotN operates and to release the next generation of leaders for CotN, a significant decision was taken at the Apostolic Council meeting in April 2025 that, from now on, the Apostolic Council would be known as an Apostolic Team comprising all cluster leaders and two members of their respective teams, which would be responsible for overseeing Church of the Nations internationally. Additionally, a Legacy Circle comprising apostolic fathers in the midst who no longer serve in the Apostolic Team, will continue to be honoured and drawn on as advisors by the Apostolic Team.

2019

In 2019, we celebrated Church of the Nations having built a culture of unity while recognising our diversity. This is best seen in the growth in governance of individual cluster leadership teams and the diversity, expression and individuality of each cluster's unique emphases, yet all underpinned by the unity that exists around the core values of CotN and four foundational truths to which each cluster readily subscribes. These truths are - A Biblical kingdom worldview; A victorious eschatology; Being advocates of city, national and global transformation; Facilitating our kingdom future through fathers and sons.



Structure

Church of the Nations is structured in such a way that we honour the principle of building from relationship around our common values and vision to structure, rather than from structure to relationship. Taking Judges 6:15 as a model for the way we have structured, CotN operates at four levels - Family; Clan; Tribe; Nation. Here's what we mean by each of these levels:

FAMILY

A church (community of believers), the structure of which varies.

CLAN

A Cluster is a relational grouping of churches and ministries connected to an apostolic father. Because we build through relationship, nearby CotN expressions may relate to different clusters.

TRIBE

Church of the Nations, one amongst many other expressions of the kingdom of God.

NATION

The body of Christ, or ekklesia, is the global church. CotN remains committed to building relationships across the wider body wherever possible - locally, regionally, and internationally.

THE APOSTOLIC TEAM

CotN is watched over internationally by the Apostolic Team comprising all cluster leaders and two members of their leadership team, from whom each cluster takes its distinctive shape or design, while being united around our shared values and vision. It is a team of peers meeting for the following;

1. Fellowship and accountability within the team.
2. Overseeing doctrine
3. Overseeing the upholding of CotN values and vision.
4. Recognising and releasing clusters.
5. Overseeing the moral and personal lives of cluster leaders.
6. Initiating international events.

Our Values

Since its origin in 1979, CotN has grown numerically and in its kingdom influence to the nations. A number of structural changes have been required over the years, to facilitate this multiplication and to ensure that meaningful relationships which are at the heart of who we are, remain protected in the process. Structures are fluid and change regularly to meet the demands of the day, but it is our shared and tightly held values that preserve unity, even as more diversity of style, conviction and emphasis is the natural consequence of our desire to be a family of apostolic clusters and not an institution or organization. Therefore, Church of the Nations should be recognized not on the basis that we all look the same, but because we hold to the same values.

While our wider set of values are not exclusive and other apostolic movements are built on similar principles, the following are core distinctives we hold dear:

Living Christ-centred lives, expressing the Lordship of Jesus Christ

Building a Kingdom family that reflects the Father's heart and grows from authentic relationships

Living a supernatural life, naturally, through the power of Holy Spirit

Advancing the kingdom of God through discipleship, equipping and fathers and sons

Mission

A family of Apostolic clusters,
Advancing the kingdom of God

Vision

We are an international family of churches, ministries and influencers, relating through love and commitment, to see the kingdom of God extended on earth.

Meet **OUR TEAM**

The Cluster Teams, joined in heart and vision, come together to form the Apostolic Team that leads and serves our Church of the Nations family:



**Tony & Marilyn
Fitzgerald**

FOUNDING FATHER
LEGACY LEADERS



**Carol & David
Cape**

LEGACY LEADERS



**Hazel & Neil
Pattison**

ACTS LIFE CLUSTER
CLUSTER LEADERS



**Steve & Kim
Lee**

ACTS LIFE CLUSTER



**Jesana & Wanderson
Machado**

ACTS LIFE CLUSTER



**Keith & Shelley
du Plessis**

CONNECTED CLUSTER
CLUSTER LEADERS



**Milaine & Paul
Dennison**

CONNECTED CLUSTER



**Justine & Mike
Davies**

CONNECTED CLUSTER



**Louis & Edna
Els**

FREEDOM HILL CLUSTER
CLUSTER LEADERS



**Brent & Esthea
Martini**

FREEDOM HILL CLUSTER



**John & Jayne
Scholtz**

HARVEST CLUSTER
CLUSTER LEADERS



**Mark & Margo
Scholtz**

HARVEST CLUSTER



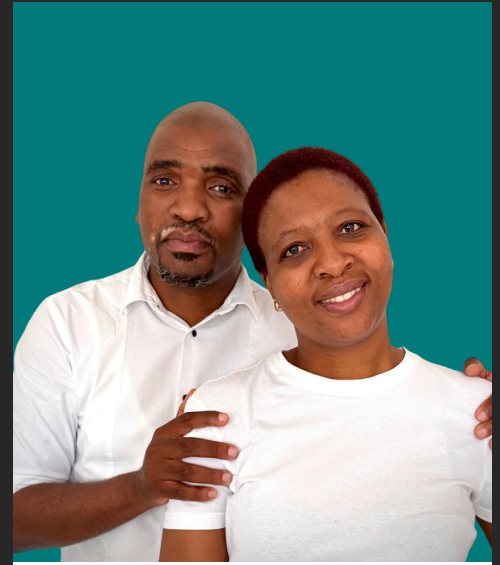
**Liane & George
Gourley**

HARVEST CLUSTER



**Marius & Linda
Gradwell**

HEARTBEAT CLUSTER
CLUSTER LEADERS



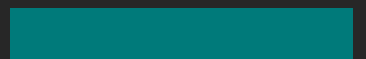
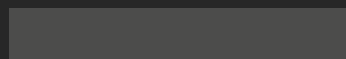
**Siya & Noxie
Mnen**

HEARTBEAT CLUSTER

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND SUCCESSION

The Apostolic Team is comprised of the Cluster Leader couple and two other key couples from within that Cluster - one of whom, would ideally (but not necessarily) be the succession plan for that Cluster.

As cluster leaders transition in the future, those who succeed them will look to a younger generation of leaders, drawn from their respective leadership teams, to represent their cluster at the Apostolic Team and, in turn, become the next wave of cluster leaders.



Becoming PART OF COTN

As a family of apostolic clusters, Church of the Nations is built on authentic relationship rather than formal structure. For this reason, a church, ministry, or Kingdom influencer becomes part of COTN through meaningful relationship developed at the cluster level. Each cluster is relationally connected to an apostolic father, and it's within these relationships that belonging to the wider Church of the Nations family naturally takes shape.

We reason from the whole to the part, while each part works out its life back into the whole, so joining COTN always happens in partnership with a specific cluster and in alignment with its apostolic leadership. It's in this organic process of relationship and shared life that the values and vision of Church of the Nations are learnt, lived out, and experienced. In this way, belonging to COTN is not about signing up to a structure, but about becoming part of a living family walking together in Kingdom purpose.

**COTN
WEBSITE**

cotn.org

**HARVEST
CLUSTER**

cotn.org/harvest-cluster

**CONNECTED
CLUSTER**

cotn.org/connected-cluster

**FREEDOM HILL
CLUSTER**

cotn.org/freedom-hill-cluster

**ACTS LIFE
CLUSTER**

cotn.org/acts-life-cluster

**HEARTBEAT
CLUSTER**

cotn.org/heartbeat-cluster

Statement OF FAITH

The Scriptures

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, in their original writings, were given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit and that they constitute the divine rule of Christian faith and practice.

The Nature of God

We believe there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things and who is the only proper object of worship.

The Trinity

We believe there are three Persons in the Godhead - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ was God made manifest in the flesh, truly and properly God and truly and properly man. Through His suffering and death, He made atonement for sin, and by His resurrection, there is eternal life for all who believe in Him.

Humanity and the Fall

We believe that since the fall of our first parents, man is entirely unable in his own strength to find salvation and reconciliation with God and is wholly dependent upon God's grace and mercy.

Salvation

We believe that salvation, by God's grace, depends upon repentance, faith in God, cleansing by the shed blood of Jesus, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit.

Baptism

We believe that baptism by immersion in water is a personal and dynamic meeting with God, and a sign of the believer's death, burial, and resurrection in Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit

We believe it is the privilege of all believers, in response to the command of God's Word, to receive the power of the Holy Spirit to live holy and victorious lives. The Holy Spirit operates through gifts, ministries, and manifestations to glorify Jesus through His body in the world.

Fivefold Ministry and the Church

We believe that Jesus Christ, at the time of His ascension into heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father, gifted the Church with living ministry expressions of Himself through apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. These ministries build up the body of Christ and equip believers for works of service.

True Worship and Lordship

We believe that ritual, tradition, ceremony, or rite cannot replace conversion, relationship with God, or true worship, and that nothing less than the Lordship of Jesus Christ upon a life is the mark of a Christian.

The Lord's Supper

We believe in the continuance of the Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, as instituted by Jesus with His disciples. Through it we discern the body of Christ in its totality, unity, and authority. This celebration stands as a memorial of Christ's suffering and death, and as a prophecy of His coming, commanded to all His followers until He returns.

The Return of Christ

We believe in the physical, triumphant return of Jesus Christ to an overcoming and glorious Church.

The Great Commission

We believe the Church is commissioned to go into all the world to preach the gospel and to extend and advance the Kingdom of God, knowing that "this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached to the whole world, for a witness to all nations, and then shall the end come."

Eternal Judgment

We believe in the judgment of God, in the eternal punishment of the wicked, and in the everlasting happiness of the righteous.



Let's always be aware that:

The Word did not become a philosophy, a theory or a concept to be discussed, orated or pondered, but the Word became a person to be followed, enjoyed and loved.

