



THE NETWORK ROADMAP





Welcome To The Elim Network

I am delighted to welcome you to this brief introduction to the Elim Network. For more than a Century, Elim has been a Pentecostal Movement committed to the mission of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Increasingly, The Elim Network draws together as a dynamic movement of movements, made up of local Churches, Ministers and Ministries who are partnering together to see communities, cities and nations transformed.

Chris Cartwright
Elim General Superintendent

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.





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.



Our Vision

Elim, as one movement with many churches, is as committed as ever to move together in mission. We call every Elim leader and church to advance into a new season of fresh mission, extending their influence, impact and outreach, reaching and serving the local community and beyond.

Our focus remains on our four strategic priorities:

- **MAKING DISCIPLES**
- **DEVELOPING LEADERS**
- **GROWING CHURCHES**
- **REACHING NATIONS**

Our vision is captured in one key word and big idea: Advance. This seeks to challenge Elim's leaders to consider what's next in advancing mission through their local church, as well as how they can help other churches and leaders advance in their journey into accelerated and radical mission.

Advance covers the decade of the '20s and not just the year 2020, so this mission focus will gain a life of its own over the coming years. Initially, we will be gathering and shaping a wide range of resources and opportunities to help Elim leaders and churches share and celebrate stories. We will give examples of what is already working and is fruitful, as well as developing and strengthening existing projects.

At its heart, Advance will take a joined-up approach – taking on board national, regional and local perspectives. Vision and practice will be connected for the entire Elim movement to grow and advance together with the good news of Jesus at the centre.

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.

A History Of ECI

The Elim Church Incorporated (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'.



Churches & Ministries

The Elim Network is open to accept into membership those churches and ministries which can accept its Foundational Truths as a basis of faith, and who are Pentecostal in belief, experience and practise. 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.

For some churches in the British Isles, the Elim Network membership has become 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 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. Along with the completion of the necessary forms and the submitting of other required documentation as outlined below.

Criteria For Application By Churches Or Ministries

The following are the criteria that are used for assessing the suitability of any church 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 church or ministry is Pentecostal in belief, experience and practise
- ▶ The church or ministry can demonstrate financial stability and integrity
- ▶ The church or ministry can demonstrate compliance in the crucial areas of charity law, safeguarding, GDPR and other government legislation as is relevant.
- ▶ The church or ministry agrees to actively fulfil the Network's requirements and expectations



The Benefits Of Being A Part Of The Elim Network

The kind of relationship we believe is possible within the Elim Network carries with it a number of benefits for ministers, churches or ministries who might otherwise operate independently. If you are contemplating becoming part of the Elim Network it may well be in order to connect with a wider network and enjoy some benefits you find you lack at present.

We believe the Elim Network offers much that can enable your ministry to grow and flourish, and the list below suggests some of those things that could benefit you, your church or your ministry.

Covering

The Elim Network is an important part of the Elim movement and those who bring leadership and covering to Alliance Elim churches are equally available to bring advice, teaching, input, support and consultancy to Network churches. From members of the National Leadership Team and Departmental Leaders to pastors and leaders in local Elim churches we offer access to experienced and gifted men and women who can bring much to you, your church or your ministry as you live out your calling.



Networking

Elim is an international movement with over 100 partnerships in 60 nations. In recent years, we have seen Elim Global expand its influence across the nations as more and more movements, churches and ministries have begun to partner with us. These partnerships open up great opportunities to be involved in international missions' projects and overseas missions' trips. Here in the UK Elim hosts events that are impacting people of all generations such as, family camps, youth festivals, women's and men's conferences, worship and prayer events. These are all expressions of our family and our commitment to make disciples, grow churches, develop leaders and reach nations.



Belonging

Elim is a family and has always sought to connect each part of the movement to the other. Not only is Elim one of the oldest Pentecostal movements in the UK, it is one of the most respected with over 500 churches (including Network Churches) and more than 700 active ministers. We encourage all of those who are part of our movement to build meaningful relationships across the varying network that is now touching almost every part of the UK.



Recognition

Our training programmes can also lead to ordained ministry with the increased opportunities that are possible with such recognition. Equally we are able to accept into the ranks of our ministry those who have trained and served elsewhere, but who believe that Elim is a movement in which they could find recognition for the calling and gifting on their life.



Equipping

There are a wide range of training opportunities in Elim. Regents Theological College is our national training centre but across every region in Elim are regular opportunities at training events and conferences to grow and develop as leaders and churches. Each of our main ministry departments has a commitment to training whether in youth ministry, evangelism, church planting, worship, children's ministry, international missions, prayer or ministry to men and women we are committed to equipping Elim people to flourish in life and leadership. It should also be noted that Elim Network ministers accepted for training incur no costs for the three years of training, coaching, mentoring and input on the Minister in Training programme just as is the case for Alliance Ministers in Training.



Resourcing

There is so much involved in ministry and church leadership today that didn't exist a number of years ago. Advice is available to Network churches, however Elim is unable to take responsibility for the decisions or actions of churches or ministries who fail to maintain the appropriate standards of compliance.

*Please note appendix 1 for more information on the benefits of being an Elim Alliance Church.



Expectations Of Member Churches 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
- ▶ The local minister/s attendance at Elim's Annual Leadership Summit / Conference, or key leadership representation from a lay led church
- ▶ Maintaining positive relationship with the Elim Regional Leader
- ▶ Involvement in Elim Regional events
- ▶ Annual financial contribution
- ▶ Ongoing legal compliance to national standards in relation to vital matters such as: safeguarding, GDPR, charity law and health and safety
- ▶ Creating local awareness and engagement with Elim (regionally & nationally)
- ▶ Regular statistical reporting to enable clearer understanding of the reach and impact of the network

Covenant Relationship

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

Attendance	Amount pcm (£)	Introductory rate pcm (£) for 1 year
Up to 100	45	25
100 to 300	65	35
300 to 700	85	45
700 to 1000	100	55
1000+	125	65

Ministries

For ministries who are members of the Network the minimum annual 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





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 appropriate to their experience and previous 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 full 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**
- ▶ **Support the leadership of Elim both regionally and nationally**

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

Applying To Join The Elim Network

Having read the information provided here any churches or ministries interested in either 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.
-  Assistance with major compliance requirements such as: Safeguarding; GDPR; Pensions, Health and safety etc.
-  Positive, relational, spiritual and legal accountability within Elim
-  Protection for churches during difficult local situations and issues, including appropriate objective intervention, as necessary, from experienced regional and national leaders.
-  Healthy accountability of local ministers to national and regional leaders, including support for credentialed ministers experiencing local leadership difficulties.
-  Access to national departments and ministries in supporting the growth and development of the local church.

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.

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

Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance.
Registered charity 251549 (England & Wales) and SC037754 (Scotland)

The Elim Church Incorporated. A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England & Wales No. 225219
Registered Office: Elim International Centre, De Walden Road, West Malvern, WR14 4DF