

# BENEFITS, EXPECTATIONS AND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BECOMING A PLUMBLINE-RELATED CHURCH

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## Benefits of committed relationship with Plumline

- Belonging to a national and international family/network of churches and ministries
- Help with training, recognising and appointing leaders
- Security and accountability for a related church by providing personal accountability and care for the church's senior leader and spouse; a watchful eye to help a church remain sound in doctrine, vision and values; and a means of appeal for church members in the event of difficulties with their church leaders
- Input of apostolic and Ephesians 4:11 gifts to the church
- The provision of a sounding-board, advice, experience and help to a church's Senior Leadership
- Fellowship and ongoing training for leaders through visits to the church and attendance at leaders' days and conferences run by Plumline
- Appearing on the Plumline website as a related church
- Opportunities for financial support and help

## Expectations and Practical Implications

### 1. A recognition of a heart joining to work together.

As the nature of the body of Christ is foremost relational and not organisational, a prospective related church is committing itself to a deeper relationship with Simon as an apostle and his apostolic team. Whilst this means becoming part of the Plumline 'structure', our emphasis is relational and not based on formal membership of an organisation.

### 2. A common heart and vision for the church and the kingdom, including the sharing of vision, doctrines and values.

Establishing a meaningful relationship takes time and also requires that we investigate whether or not we hold sufficiently similar doctrine, vision and values. For this reason, we enter into an initial 6-month 'courtship' period. At the end of this period, either party has the freedom to step back from the relationship should they so desire.

### 3. A commitment to regular fellowship and communication together.

When Simon and members of his team visit, these visits should be a high priority on the church's agenda. Senior leaders, their leadership team, and others as appropriate should be committed to attending the regular fellowship and equipping/training days, along with the annual Plumline conference. There should also be regular contact and meetings between the senior church leader and his/her spouse and the designated Plumline representative for input, care and accountability.

4. **A commitment to acting in consultation with Simon, or a designated team member, over major decisions and developments relating to the church and the leaders, and to weigh prayerfully the advice given.**

It is impossible for us to oversee if we are not given anything to oversee. To assist us in providing appropriate pastoral care and help, we need to be provided with information concerning the ongoing welfare of individual key leaders within the church. We also need to be consulted at an early stage about any projects that the church is considering, or major developments or changes being considered in areas such as vision, doctrine and major leadership appointments. There should be an open invitation for the Plumblin representative to attend Senior Leaders' meetings as and when appropriate. Minutes of Senior Leaders' meetings may be requested from time to time to keep Plumblin informed of matters under discussion. A copy of the church's doctrinal statement, vision and goals is to be provided.

5. **Financial Support**

*From Plumblin to the Church*

Plumblin will seek to help financially with new church plants and other developments or mission activities that a church may engage in. Invitations will be made to other churches in the family to assist with such projects.

*From the Church to Plumblin*

- i. The church should tithe its regular income to Plumblin Ministries. This is to be established on an agreed basis of monthly or quarterly, either by a cheque or by Standing Order payments to Plumblin Ministries. These general funds help towards the administrative running costs of Plumblin Ministries and support of any personnel and projects as is felt appropriate by Simon and the Plumblin Core Team or the Plumblin Trustees.
- ii. It may also be appropriate for the church and/or Senior Leaders to help support individuals from the Apostolic team serving them.
- iii. An invitation will be given from time to time to contribute to one-off mission and overseas projects that Plumblin is engaged in.
- iv. The church would be expected to minister financially to any visiting ministries from the team for their time/ministry and travel costs.

6. **Public acknowledgement of the relationship between the church and Plumblin**

This would be for example on letterheads and websites, etc. On becoming a committed part of the Plumblin family, a church's details will appear on the Plumblin website as a related church.

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***Simon Matthews***

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