

THE NAMS
RULE AND
ORDER



1. A PRAYER FOR NAMS:

Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostles grace truly to believe and to preach your Word; grant to us with your Church to love that Word which they believed, and to preach, teach, and live what they taught, to the honor and glory of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

2. PREAMBLE:

We (NAMS Companions) believe that we have been called by Jesus Christ to band together as an extended global missionary community, under this common rule, in support of pioneer church planting, while being always accountable to one another under God, and His most Holy Word.

3. OUR CHARGE:

We are to preach and teach “Jesus Christ and Him crucified”; to plant new churches wherever God opens the door; always to obey the Holy Spirit; and never to break the Word of God.

4. OUR CONTINUING OBJECTIVES AS A SOCIETY:

- a. We will remain faithful to the Gospel and values of the Kingdom of God in all things, making disciples as we go;
- b. We will build the global society of Companions* sharing our common calling and living our common rule.
- c. We will help plant new Great Commission Congregations* wherever the Lord Jesus sends us.

5. OUR CORPORATE RULE OF LIFE

- a. All Companions:
 - i. Lead (or serve in) a worshiping Great Commission Congregation*;
 - ii. Lead (or be part of) a Great Commission Cell*;
 - iii. Abide daily in the word of Jesus;
 - iv. Pray daily for global mission, remembering NAMS;
 - v. Give generously as faithful stewards where we serve, and for the global work of the Society;
 - vi. Make (at least) three personal “NAMS Retreats*” each year;
 - vii. Remain accountable to those over us in the Lord, ecclesiastically and within the Discipling Structures* of our common Rule and Order.



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b. Married Companions:

- i. Commit to the path of Spousal Discipleship*.
- ii. Ensure spousal understanding and consent to our call as companions, and inviting our spouse to become (as God leads) a “Spousal Companion*” of NAMS.

c. Global Society:

- i. Make one Annual Retreat* with the Society in our Mission Region.
- ii. Attend the NAMS Global Novena*, once every 4/5 years.

6. OUR DOCTRINE:

The “faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” is the doctrine we “contend for,” (Jude 3) and the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are our “rule and ultimate standard of faith.”

7. OUR ECCLESIASTICAL CONNECTION:

We are a global religious society (order) relating to the Anglican Family of “the one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic church.” Our ordained Anglican leaders are all canonically resident in an Anglican jurisdiction. We desire to work with, and be in unity with, the faithful church throughout the world. At all times and in all places we seek to serve the church “that submits to Christ.”

(St Francis’ Day - 2016)



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PREAMBLE: These practical matters are the customary “ORDERing” of our common life. They are a compilation of some of the distinctive patterns that we believe to be part of God’s initial organizational guidance for our society (1994-2017). They are subsidiary to our NAMS Rule, and may be contextualized in different regions consistent with the Rule. So far as possible they will guide all our work globally.

1. **THE SOCIETY. NAMS** is a society of “apostolic action” not a judicatory.* It is a dispersed community of persons united by a common call to a common work and a common rule of life, all in response to the clear Final Command of Christ Jesus (Matt 28:19).
2. **COMPANIONS.** Those who choose to be part of NAMS and share in full membership are called Companions. They voluntarily submit to the NAMS Rule & Order for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God, particularly through pioneering, global, church planting.
3. **PRIORITY OF DISCIPLESHIP.** Faithfulness to the Lord’s Final Command requires of all Companions that their primary ministry as members of the Society is making disciples of Jesus who themselves learn to make disciples of Jesus.
4. **METRICS.** We measure what we most value, and that means we will hold all

Companions accountable to the first three following measures, and leaders to them all, as appropriate:

- a. Who is discipling me?
 - b. Who am I discipling to in turn, disciple others?
 - c. Who is over me in the Lord?
 - d. Who are the leaders I am raising up?
 - e. Who are the Church Planters that I am equipping?
 - f. What new church plants are we preparing for?
 - g. What new church plants have started this year?
5. **GLOBAL LEADERSHIP.**
 - a. **Servant General.** Steward of the Vision, Superior of the Order, and Chairman of the Global Council of Directors.
 - b. **Prior General.** A Prior General may be appointed by the Servant General, to assist him in his ministry. This position, if filled, has no executive responsibility.
 - c. **Global Executive.** The overall leadership of the Society, day by day, is given to the Global Executive (henceforth GE). He answers to the Servant General, and through him to the Global Council of Directors.



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- d. **Global Ministry Team.** All Regional Team Leaders (RTLs) are appointed by the GE with the concurrence of the SG, serve on this global leadership team, along with the SG and the GE. This team serves as the global leadership of the Society between novenas.
- e. **Global Executive Team.** Appointed by the Global Executive as necessary, to assist him in his ministry to the Society.
- f. **Regional Operations Executives** May be appointed by the GE as necessary.
- g. **Global Council of Directors.** All temporal matters of the Society are overseen by this council, in consultation with the SG (who is the Chairman) and the GE (who is the Vice Chairman). They are responsible for all legal and fiduciary matters, consistent with the Rule & Order. They have no authority to alter the Rule & Order. They may not appoint a new SG or GE without the recommendation of the Global \ Ministry Team.
- h. **GLOBAL MISSION REGIONS.** For the sake of missionary effectiveness and order we currently divide global geography into 15 mega regions:
 - i. Jewish Peoples.
 - ii. S. Asian Peoples,
 - iii. Himalayan/Tibetan Peoples,
 - iv. Latin American Peoples,
 - v. Turkic Peoples,
 - vi. Medean/Persian Peoples,
 - vii. E. Asian Peoples,
 - viii. Arabic Peoples,
 - ix. Horn of Africa Peoples,
 - x. Sub-Saharan Peoples,
 - xi. Pacific Island Peoples,
 - xii. Malaysian Peoples,
 - xiii. S.E. Asian Peoples,
 - xiv. Eurasian Peoples,
 - xv. N. American Peoples,



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6. **ECCLESIASTICAL ACCOUNTABILITY.** NAMS was called into existence to serve the church of Jesus Christ. The Society desires always to work in gospel partnership with the faithful “church that submits to Christ.” In particular, we are and seek to be in partnership with the global Anglican Family.
- a. **Global Bishop Guardian (GBG).** One active diocesan bishop serves in this role, who is invited and appointed by the SG. This role has three parts:
 - i. Counsel to the Servant General and to the GE
 - ii. Chairman of the Council of Guardians;
 - iii. Final Adjudicator of any matter (consistent with the NAMS Rule & Order) brought to him by the Servant General, the Global Executive team (or by petition from 2/3rds of the Global Ministry Team).
 - b. **Council of Guardians.** By invitation and appointment of the SG, a group of sitting and retired bishops who serve as a council to offer spiritual guidance and advice to the SG and GE of the society, and to act as ecclesiastical guardians of the work of NAMS particularly in relationship to the Anglican family of the church and other ecumenical bodies we may be in partnership with in the regions where they serve, and in the wider church of Jesus Christ.
 - c. **Bishop Advocates.** Active and retired bishops who believe in the call that God has given to NAMS, and who pray for us and advocate for our ministry as they are able and led by the Spirit of God.
 - d. **Ordained Companions.** All ordained Companions are to be canonically resident in a recognized jurisdiction, and to be accountable to that oversight as required, consistent with the NAMS Rule & Order.
7. **THE NAMS NETWORK.** Our community encompasses men and women around world who believe in our calling and help to keep us faithful to our calling. In addition to our Companions, this includes:
- a. **Friends.** Care for us and work, pray, and give as they are led by the Spirit of God
 - b. **Intercessors.** Undertake a daily discipline of praying for our Society.
 - c. **Centurions.** Men and women who take a “local vow” to serve in partnership with NAMS.
 - d. **Apprentices.** Men and women who are serving for an extended period of time in one of our Base Communities, while discerning if they are called “to be” NAMS “Companions”.
 - e. **Associates.** Those who have been invited and approved to join the community, and who are awaiting their liturgical inclusion as Companions.



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- f. **Partnering Organizations.** Ecclesiastical jurisdictions and Missionary organizations which desire to be in partnership with us (usually by way of membership, subscription or by an MOU) in the work of global mission.

8. ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE SOCIETY.

All Companions are accountable to the Rule & Order, and to one another in Christ Jesus for the sake of the Gospel.

- a. It is expected that Companions always consult with those over them in the Society before making major decisions affecting their fulfillment of the call and/or scope and direction of their work in relationship to the Rule & Order.
- b. Married Companions have a special inviolable accountability, as a priority, to their spouse.
- c. All Companions are accountable to their Great Commission Cell Leader (CL) or directly to the Base Community Team Leader (BCTL).
- d. All CLs are accountable to their BCTL.
- e. All BCTLs are accountable to their Regional Team Leader (RTL) or their National Team Leader (NTL) if appropriate.
- f. NTLs, where present, are accountable to their RTL.
- g. All RTLs are accountable to the Global Executive Officer (GEO).
- h. The GEO is accountable to the Servant General (SG).
- i. The SG and GEO are accountable to the Global Council of Directors.



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*** DEFINITIONS:**

SOCIETY OF APOSTOLIC ACTION: A religious order called to a specific missionary work in the world, working with and for the church of Jesus Christ.

JUDICATORY: Any ecclesiastical body, denomination, or organized mission network, exercising gospel authority and jurisdiction over ordained leaders and/or local churches.

DISCIPLE: Someone learning to follow Jesus and learning to become a disciple-making disciple.

MADE DISCIPLE: Someone who has become a disciple who is making other disciples.

MISSIONARY DISCIPLE: Made Disciple willing to “go” wherever the Lord has need of them, whenever the Lord needs them, whatever the Lord wants them to do.

SPOUSAL DISCIPLESHIP: The path of discipling our spouse if we are married.

NAMS COMPANION: A Missionary Disciple serving with **NAMS**

- » Sharing a common **CALL**
- » Living a common **RULE**

SPOUSAL COMPANION: A spouse married to a companion who desires to share in the rule, as far as possible for them, under God.

GREAT COMMISSION CELL: Two or more Companions preparing to help plant a new community of faith in obedience to the Lord’s Final Command. (Mt 28:19-20)

NAMS BASE COMMUNITY: A community of NAMS Companions, on mission, building a base from which to help launch new Great Commission Congregations by:

- » Modeling disciple-making community;
- » Incubating disciple-making leaders;
- » Training those called to church planting and
- » Sending them out as God commands.

NAMS CHURCH PLANTING PYRAMID:

- » A Connected & Accountable Leader
- » A Disciple-making cell system
- » A Corporate worship gathering
- » A Leadership development system



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GREAT COMMISSION CONGREGATION:

A community of disciple-making followers of Jesus seeking to:

- » Make disciples who make disciples
- » Raise up disciple-making leaders
- » Plant disciple-making congregations

NAMS RETREAT:

A 48 hour time period, normally spread over 3 days, to withdraw from ordinary work to seek the Lord's face and to hear His voice.

DISCIPLING STRUCTURES:

All companions are committed to being in a discipling relationship within the Society, and to disciple others "as we are going."



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