



International Alliance of Messianic  
Congregations and Synagogues

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## **Membership Requirements**

# IAMCS MEMBERSHIP

## REQUIREMENTS:

- [1] Applicant must agree with the MJAA/IAMCS Statement of Faith.
- [2] Applicant must have recommendations from 2-3 Messianic leaders:
  - a) Messianic Rabbis from the IAMCS Steering Committee or the MJAA Executive Committee would be best
  - b) Messianic Rabbis who are currently members of the IAMCS
- [3] Applicant congregation must be in existence for over one year. If congregation is in the Planter's Program, it can make application for membership after one year.
- [4] Applicant's Senior Messianic leader must be a member of the MJAA for at least one year.
- [5] Applicant's Senior Messianic leader needs to have attended at least one summer 'Messiah' conference and one January IAMCS Rabbi's conference.
- [6] Jewishness of the congregation – either the applicant's congregational leader is Jewish and/or there must be members of the congregation who are Jewish to be considered a Messianic Jewish congregation.
- [7] Applicant congregation is willing to be spiritually accountable to the IAMCS.
- [8] Applicant must be an active congregation that is meeting on a regular basis.
- [9] Jewish heritage and observance – Applicant congregation has regular meetings on Shabbat; observance of the Festivals; generally a Messianic Jewish form of observance in the congregation including the cycles of life (B'rit milah, weddings, funerals, Bar/Bat Mitzvot, etc.)

[10] Applicant congregation will participate financially in agreement with the guidelines of the IAMCS (i.e. \$950 Membership fee (formerly known as dues and mandatory monthly support) along with prayerful consideration of additional annual pledge amount for ongoing programs/projects).

[11] Applicant congregation must demonstrate that they do not hold dual membership with the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations, (UMJC).

[12] The Senior leader is required to attend one MJAA/IAMCS national conference per year (either the summer 'Messiah' conference or the winter 'Rabbi's' conference).

[13] Applicant congregation must adhere to the following positions:

- a. The IAMCS affirms that marriage is between one man and one woman, according to our traditions, practices and understanding of Biblical standards and ideals.
- b. IAMCS ordines and member congregational leadership agree to limit their officiating to marriage ceremonies between one man and one woman.
- c. IAMCS member congregational leadership agrees with the Steering Committee position paper entitled 'Unrecognized Mediation: A False Hope' (found on the IAMCS website)

## EXPECTATIONS:

[13] Applicant's Senior leader will make best efforts to attend MJAA/IAMCS national conferences on a regular basis.

[14] Applicant's Senior leader will make best efforts to attend MJAA/IAMCS regional conferences and be involved in the region. The senior leader is strongly encouraged to get involved in their region through attendance at their closest regional conference. The senior leader should strongly encourage members of their congregation to join the MJAA and to attend both MJAA national and regional conferences.

[15] Applicant should be of good report within the Christian community with local Pastors willing to vouch for applicant's Messianic Jewish congregation and its Senior leader.

[16] Applicant congregation may have to wait a period of time before being considered for membership by the IAMCS Steering Committee and possibly need to receive counseling in this regard if:

- a. Applicant has just split off from another congregation.
- b. Applicant has moved inappropriately close to another Messianic Synagogue.
- c. Applicant is unreconciled with other Messianic leaders, i.e. with the UMJC, etc.
- d. Applicant is in a 'Matthew 18' conflict resolution situation.

[Unless specifically stated, the above requirements and expectations apply both to the Messianic Rabbi/Pastor and to the Congregation. Also, items#4, 5, 10,11,13 and 14 do not apply to Messianic Rabbis/Pastors or congregations outside of the United States of America.]