

Josiah Venture Covenant

Believing God has sovereignly brought us together to further his kingdom by our cooperation, we have entered into a strategic alliance. The focus of our cooperative effort is young people in Central and Eastern Europe, the means by which we impact them is the local church, the goal to which we strive is the fulfillment of the great commission to the glory of God.

Josiah Venture is a joint effort of national organizations who have entered into a covenantal relationship of interdependence. In joining the Josiah Venture, each commits to a common identity and vision, to mutual accountability and to partnership in ministry.

Partner organizations remain anchored in their national setting, accountable to a national board and responsible to flesh out the vision in a manner most appropriate to the local needs and conditions. At the same time the organization is joined in covenant with the other members in the international joint venture, within which it has certain rights and responsibilities.

Article one: Common identity and vision

Each partner organization commits the organization and its members to the following vision, mission, key values and core convictions, as well as to the identity of the overall venture.

Vision: A movement of God among the youth of Eastern Europe that finds its home in the local church and transforms society.

Mission: To equip young leaders to fulfill Christ's commission through the local church.

Key Values:

1. Bold faith
2. Dynamic community
3. God-honoring excellence
4. Deep integrity
5. Indigenous empowerment

Core Convictions:

1. The local church is the Bride of Christ and everything we do must cause her to prosper.
2. Leaders transformed into the image of Christ will transform the world around them.
3. Both the mandate and model for ministry are found in the life of Christ.
4. Making disciples who make disciples accomplishes the Great Commission.
5. Nothing is fully mature until it is capable of self-reproduction.
6. Ministry must be designed and driven by the Word of God.

Article two: Mutual accountability

Each partner organization commits its organization and members to the following standards.

1. **Doctrinal integrity** – the work and teaching will be conducted in agreement with the *J.V. statement of Faith*, as well as any additional position papers approved by the J.V. council.
2. **Financial integrity** – funds will be managed in a professional manner that is above reproach, in keeping with the laws of the local setting, as well as the financial standards of the *JV joint service agreement*.
3. **Organization integrity** – the organization will be run with operational excellence, according to the *JV standards of organizational integrity*.

Article three: Partnership in Ministry

A. National organizations

1. Each national organization is legally autonomous and has the freedom to withdraw from the joint venture at any time.
2. Each national organization should choose a name that best communicates the vision and identity to the people in that national setting. On the international level or in sending countries such as the United States and Canada, the work will be represented under the common identity of Josiah Venture.
3. JV will not partner with more than one organization in a given country. All other formal connections with other entities in the country will be made through the partner organization.
4. The national organization "owns" the work of JV in that country. It's board has final authority on how the vision is to be implemented, within the parameters of the covenant.
5. Each national organization has responsibility to take ownership and involvement in the entire Venture, including assisting other countries.
6. Certain national organizations may be delegated standing responsibilities within the overall Joint Venture – (i.e. to lead the coordinated camping thrust, or to create and maintain the JV website etc.)
7. Each national organization has the opportunity to share resources, finances, expertise, and relationships with the other members.
8. If an organization withdraws from the partnership or refuses to meet the requirements of the covenant, they relinquish the right to use the resources of J.V. This includes training materials that were developed by another national organization, or by the Joint Venture as a whole, as well as finances channeled through Josiah Venture from other countries.

B. Josiah Venture Council

1. The Josiah Venture council consists one or two leaders from each of the partner organizations as well as from countries in which JV works but no partner organization exists.
2. If the country has a national organization, at least one of these representatives must be a national.
3. The Council determines how the mission and vision of Josiah Venture will be carried out in practical terms.
4. The members of the council hold each other accountable to the mutual covenant they have made, as well as to the vision and mission.
5. The council works to provide the resources, training, care and feedback needed to maximize the effectiveness of each of the national organizations.
6. The J.V. council has no physical resources of it's own, since the resources of the Joint Venture are located in the various national organizations. The council is, however, responsible for leading and coordinating the joint effort and managing resources that are made available through the national organizations to the whole.
7. The Council biannually elects its chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary. Vote is taken by ballot.
8. The council functions as a group of "elders" for the movement, and seeks to make its decisions by unanimity. When that is not possible, decisions will be carried by a 2/3 majority of members present.
9. The Annual Meeting of the Council is held in the fall each year.
10. Regular meetings of the Council are called by the chairman as needed or by petition of any three members. Generally there are at least three meetings a year.
11. A written notice of any meeting, including the time, place, and when possible, the proposed agenda, is sent to each Council member at least two weeks in advance of a meeting.
12. The officers consist of a Chairman, Vice Chair, and secretary
13. A quorum of a simple majority of members is required to conduct business.

C. Advisory board

1. The board of Josiah Venture NFP, located in the United States, also functions as the advisory board for the entire Joint Venture.
2. The election of a new JV council chair is initiated and voted on by the council members, however, the council will seek input from the advisory board before such a decision is finalized.
3. The JV council chair person reports to the JV advisory board in person at least once a year.
4. Whenever possible, a member of the advisory board is encouraged to participate in the council meetings.

D. Shared staff

1. New staff will be assigned at the invitation of the national organization or country leader.
2. All staff working in a given country are directly responsible to the national organization for all of their efforts there. The national organization has final authority for the work done within its national setting.
3. Sending organizations retain the authority to remove them from the field, or refuse to deploy them to a particular assignment. They also have responsibility to monitor the

overall health and effectiveness of staff that are sent from their country and give feedback and input to the national organization leadership if any concerns should arise.

4. In countries where there is no national organization, the missionaries or national staff are responsible to the chair of the JV council for their work, or to another member of the council who has been assigned to them (i.e. another country leader).

E. Shared resources

1. Resources that are owned or developed by one country can be offered to the other members of JV.
2. The country of origin has final authority on how the resources can be used, and what modifications are acceptable.
3. The country of origin has final responsibility for ongoing quality control and to insure that the tools do not lose their integrity.
4. In the event that these resources are turned over to the joint venture as a whole, the council is responsible for managing their use and maintaining quality control.
5. In fund raising, members will seek to avoid confusion and maximize trust with donors through a coordination of efforts.

F. Relationships

1. Each partner will commit to protect the reputation of the entire venture, as well as the health and reputation of each member.
2. Each partner will commit to resolve conflicts quickly, directly, and in a spirit of love and humility.
3. Each partner will communicate about the other members in a way that builds them up and benefits those who listen (Eph 4:29)
4. Each partner will consider the Joint Venture as a living body of believers, in which Christ is to be exalted, and each part does its work to build up the whole. (Eph 4:15-16)

Each partner will value and invest in relationships with the other members, bearing each others burdens as an expression of Christ's love. (Gal 6:2)

Statement of Faith

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Scriptures, both the Old and the New Testaments, are fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, without error in the original manuscripts, infallible, and the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

WE BELIEVE in one God, Creator of all things, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

WE BELIEVE that man was created in the image of God, but through Adam's sin became alienated from God, acquired a sin nature, and came under the judicial sentence of death. As a consequence man is lost, unable to save himself from the wrath of God, and needs to be saved.

WE BELIEVE in the Lord Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, born of a virgin, sinless and perfect, the only Savior. We believe that He carried our sins in His body on the cross, rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and is now at the right hand of God, mediating for us. We believe in the personal and physical return of Christ in power and glory.

WE BELIEVE that salvation is a gift of God sovereignly offered by grace to those who repent and place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; and that all who truly believe in Him are eternally saved on the basis of His shed blood.

WE BELIEVE in God the Holy Spirit who indwells all believers to convict, enlighten, sanctify, empower and guide them in life and service.

WE BELIEVE that the true Church is composed of persons who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is Head.

WE BELIEVE in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto eternal life with God, and they that are lost unto eternal punishment separated from God.

WE BELIEVE that Christ commanded the church to make disciples of all peoples, by going into all the world, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that Christ commanded.

(Josiah Venture also accepts the Lausanne Covenant and the World Evangelical Fellowship Statement of Faith.)