Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc.

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Benefits of Membership

There is much time and expense involved in setting up and running an organisation. Combined church ministries in the Illawarra can make their lives easier by joining with other combined church ministries and sharing the benefits. Five Islands Christian Ministries Inc. (hereafter referred to as 5icm) was established in 2005 to administer a Healing Rooms ministry, but the experience of the difficulties of setting up such an organisation gave birth to the idea of sharing the achievement with other ministries. The Five Islands Healing Rooms, Illawarra Prayer Network, the Wollongong Gospel Choir, and others have come and gone from 5icm over the years. The usefulness of 5icm to its member ministries ensured 5icm's continuance. Current members are the Illawarra Seniors Band, Veritas Gospel, and GospelFacts.au.

The **benefits** of becoming a member ministry are:

1. Member ministries do not need separate **incorporation** status, although they can have separate incorporation if they want to. (Incorporation is needed so that individual members cannot be held legally responsible for the actions of other members.)

2. Member ministries do not need separate **Public Liability Insurance**. 5icm has this insurance with ACS Financial and it covers all ministries of 5icm. As a requirement for PLI, 5icm maintains a **Risk Management Policy** and each ministry appoints a person responsible for safety in its ministry.

3. **Finances** can be managed separately or as part of the 5icm accounts. One of our ministries has a sub-account to our 5icm IMB Bank account, which avoids the need to submit meeting minutes and association rules to a bank. Sub-accounts are operated by the member ministry. 5Icm has no membership fees and is supported by donations and disbursements from investments. Member ministries fund their own activities. The financial details of all the member ministries are rolled up into an end of financial year report which is submitted to the Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission.

4. Member ministries benefit from 5icm's ATO endorsed **charity status**. Charities do not have to pay the GST. In order to claim back the GST spent on goods and services, 5icm submits an annual Business Activity Statement to the ATO who returns the GST paid by 5icm and its member ministries during each financial year. 5icm then returns the GST refund to each member ministry.

5. Member ministries are included on the **5icm website** (www.5icm.org.au). If member ministries maintain a separate website, a link to that site is included on its 5icm webpage. 5icm maintains an "events list" on its website which advertises 5icm member ministry meetings and other Illawarra church events.

6. Member ministries benefit from prayer support and advertising in its fortnightly newsletter, ***Clearing the Way for Jesus*** (present distribution is to over 4,000 which includes individuals, groups and churches).

7. Members who attend the 5icm Annual General Meeting form the **5icm Management Committee.** This is the only business meeting each year and all legal requirements are dealt with at this meeting. Additional meetings may be called if the need arises.

8. Member ministries may use the **5icm logo**. The logo consists of a hand representing healing, prayer, praise, helping, and the number five (as in the name of the organisation), and a dove representing the Holy Spirit. The "Five Islands District" was the name the Illawarra area was first called by Bass and Flinders and the early settlers.

9. Member ministries benefit from the mutual encouragement, support and contacts made through 5icm. 5icm maintains a database of over 11,000 contacts including all Illawarra Churches. A privacy policy is strictly adhered to.

10. 5icm is qualified by **Connecting Up** to purchase new and refurbished computers, printers, software, etc, donated by technology suppliers for the cost of the Connecting Up administration fee. Items purchased under the 5icm name at the member ministry's expense, belong to the member ministry, not 5icm.

11. Microsoft has provided to 5icm 10 licences for Microsoft 365 Business Premium (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access etc), each of which has 1TB cloud storage and can be used on up to 5 devices.

12. 5icm is a member of **Church Resources** which makes available to churches and religious organisations goods at discounted prices.

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Being an umbrella organisation for supporting member ministries, 5icm only has two **obligations**:

1. **Membership**. At least one leader of a ministry group must become a formal member of 5icm (this means signing an application form, which is nominated and seconded by two 5icm members). Representative members must be Christians (see 5icm Constitution for membership qualifications). 5icm asks for at least one representative of each member ministry to attend the 5icm Annual General Meeting and report on their ministry's activities.

2. **Service.** 5icm members and member ministries participate in the aims of 5icm, to serve the Illawarra Churches and Community. Member ministries may minister beyond the Illawarra but note that Public Liability Insurance only applies within Australia.

Derek Thompson,
Public Officer,
5icm
November, 2026
ABN 28 067 194 840
Incorporation No. INC9885093