



***Yachad BeYeshua* Founding Charter**  
(Approved December 5, 2019; Amended June 24, 2020)

## **Our Fellowship and Mission**

### Identity

The members of the Dallas Congress hereby establish a new fellowship, international and inter-confessional, of Jewish disciples of Jesus. Its name shall be “*Yachad BeYeshua* (Together in Yeshua): A Global Fellowship of Jewish Disciples of Jesus.”

The purpose of *Yachad BeYeshua* shall be to encourage Jewish disciples of Yeshua throughout the world, and in varied ecclesial contexts, to forge a common global identity. We believe that such a common identity can empower Jewish disciples of Yeshua to live as a corporate expression of *Am Yisrael* within the body of the Messiah in all its ecclesial variety. We also believe that it can empower them to live as a corporate expression of the *ecclesia* within the Jewish people. A global and inter-confessional fellowship of Jewish disciples of Yeshua has the potential to give voice to the prophetic message which these disciples corporately embody, and to open up new ways for that voice to be heard in both the Christian and Jewish worlds.

While empowering Jewish Christians and Messianic Jews to fulfil their calling as Jewish disciples of Yeshua, this global identity can also meet needs which some of them feel deeply. It can enable Jews in the churches to overcome the *existential loneliness* which sometimes affects Jews living as an isolated minority among Gentiles. It can likewise enable Messianic Jews to overcome the *communal marginalization* which some experience as part of a community whose legitimacy is regularly called into question in both the Jewish and Christian worlds.

*Yachad BeYeshua* shall seek to foster and deepen communion among Jewish disciples of Yeshua through prayer, study, and discussion. The fellowship will also provide new opportunities for Jewish disciples of Yeshua to partner together in witness to the wider Christian and Jewish worlds, in the development of spiritual formation programs and materials, in combatting anti-Semitism, and in scholarly research relevant to its common goals.

*Yachad BeYeshua* shall utilize the official statements of the Helsinki Consultation (adopted by the Consultation as of August 2018) as the theological basis for its common life and work.

### Membership

Jews who confess Jesus as the Messiah of Israel, the Son of God and the Lord of all, are encouraged to become *members* of *Yachad BeYeshua*.<sup>1</sup> Only members shall be eligible to vote in elections or to serve in positions of leadership.

For the purposes of establishing voting caucuses for leadership elections, members will be asked to select one of the following as their primary ecclesial identity: (1) The Catholic or Orthodox church; (2) One of the historical churches of the Reformation, or an Evangelical or Pentecostal church; (3) The Messianic Jewish community. (Note: Those who select the third category are generally those who do not consider the term “Messianic Jew” as equivalent to “Jewish Christian,” since they do not accept the term “Christian” as an appropriate self-designation.)

There will be no standardized membership fees, but all members are encouraged to support *Yachad BeYeshua* financially on an annual basis according to their means.

We welcome non-Jewish believers in Jesus as *friends* of *Yachad BeYeshua*. Organizations wishing to support *Yachad BeYeshua* are invited to consider participating as *organizational supporters*.

The list of *Yachad BeYeshua* *members* and *friends* shall not be made public, but shall be available to the members themselves. If a member would prefer to leave his or her membership undisclosed to other members, they may choose to do so.

### Inter-Confessional Character

In its inter-confessional character *Yachad BeYeshua* seeks to transcend the significant divide between Messianic Jews (i.e., those who identify with the Messianic Jewish movement and who do not accept the term “Christian” as an appropriate self-designation) and Jewish Christians (i.e., those Jews in churches who do accept the term “Christian” as an appropriate self-designation). Historically there has been substantial mistrust and acrimony between these two sets of Jewish

---

<sup>1</sup> [The following will be part of a policy document that guides the leaders of *Yachad BeYeshua*:] There is much disagreement within the Jewish world regarding the precise definition of Jewish identity and the resulting determination of who qualifies as a Jew. In many parts of the world, non-Jewish Christians esteem Jews and Judaism to the point where they adopt Jewish practices and even claim Jewish identity. To maintain our integrity as a Jewish reality, the leaders of *Yachad BeYeshua* will need to wisely develop and employ criteria for determining whether an applicant for membership is to be regarded by the fellowship as “a Jew who confesses Jesus...” Among those criteria shall be descent from a Jewish ancestor (i.e., an ancestor who him- or herself had two Jewish parents) no further back than two generations.

disciples of Jesus. *Yachad BeYeshua* seeks to establish peace, dialogue, mutual appreciation, and cooperative action in place of conflict.

*Yachad BeYeshua* also seeks to transcend the divides separating Catholic, Orthodox, and Reformation churches, and between the historical churches of the Reformation and the newer evangelical and Pentecostal communities. As much as possible *Yachad BeYeshua* shall maintain in all its various structures the confessional diversity reflecting the above ecclesial distinctions.

While *Yachad BeYeshua* brings members of these diverse ecclesial communities together in one fellowship, it acknowledges the significance of the theological differences that remain, and respects the integrity of each of the traditions represented in its midst. *Yachad BeYeshua* is not established for the purpose of resolving longstanding theological disagreements, but rather to be a fellowship in which Jewish disciples of Yeshua strengthen one another and work together based upon the substantial truths and weighty tasks which they share in common.

*Yachad BeYeshua* values the enrichment that comes from joint male and female partnership in service. Therefore, the fellowship shall encourage involvement of both men and women in the International Coordinating Committee, the Theological Commission, and other committees that may be established.

## **Facilitating Our Fellowship and Mission**

### Gathering Together for Fellowship and Mission

The ongoing fellowship and mission of *Yachad BeYeshua* shall be actualized on several levels – local, regional and global. These local and regional efforts shall have as much autonomy as possible while maintaining the unity of the global fellowship.

The members of *Yachad BeYeshua* shall gather together on a global level biennially. These meetings will be livestreamed so that members who cannot participate in person may still be involved. In the years between biennial gatherings, the membership shall conduct business and dialogue on matters of concern through virtual means, and through the local, national and regional fellowships.

### International Coordinating Committee (ICC)

Globally, *Yachad BeYeshua* shall be coordinated and represented by an International Coordinating Committee (ICC). The ICC shall meet at least quarterly (in person or virtually). The ICC serves the movement by supporting the development of the regional expressions of *Yachad BeYeshua*. Looking to the future, the ICC responsibilities shall include:

- Developing effective ways to recruit and admit new members to *Yachad BeYeshua*
- Building and strengthening relationships among members through the establishment of online/social-media platforms, the arranging of conferences, and other forms of communication and relationship-building

- Promoting deliberation within the fellowship regarding the vision, goals, and objectives of *Yachad BeYeshua*, and the best ways to fulfill them
- Speaking on behalf of *Yachad BeYeshua* to the churches and the Jewish world
- Administering the legal and financial affairs of *Yachad BeYeshua* in a responsible manner, in accountability to the members of the fellowship.

The ICC shall be elected by the membership and consist of nine members, including three officers (a Moderator and two Assistant-Moderators). The term of office for the Moderator and Assistant-Moderators shall be four years, with the possibility of one renewal of term. The term of office for other ICC members shall be two years each, with the possibility of one renewal of term.

Voting for ICC leaders will take place in two stages. First, the three officers, a Moderator and two Assistant-Moderators, shall be nominated and elected by the full membership. One of the three shall be a Messianic Jew (as defined above); one of the three shall be Catholic or Orthodox; and the third shall be from a historical church of the Reformation or from an Evangelical or Pentecostal church. Second, six more members of the ICC shall be nominated and elected by the caucuses which are represented in *Yachad BeYeshua*: two from the Messianic Jewish community, two from the Catholic or Orthodox communities, and two from a historical church of the Reformation or an Evangelical or Pentecostal church.

In the future, leadership transitions shall be handled in the following manner: Non-participation in three consecutive ICC meetings without a valid excuse equals voluntary resignation. If a non-officer retires or resigns voluntarily, the position will remain vacant until the next election. If an officer retires or resigns voluntarily, the ICC may select an interim officer from its ranks until the next election.

#### *Yachad BeYeshua* Theological Commission

A Theological Commission shall be established on the basis of the current Helsinki Consultation. Its tasks will be to:

- Consider theological issues recommended by the ICC, and to submit proposed new theological statements to the ICC
- Develop programs of study and formation for *Yachad BeYeshua* members in collaboration with the ICC
- Conduct research on the historical memory of Jewish disciples of Jesus and develop adequate means to preserve it.

The membership of the Theological Commission shall consist of eight to fifteen participants. Current members of the Helsinki Consultation shall be given the opportunity to decide whether to become members of the Commission. If need be, new members shall be added. Their appointment shall be confirmed by the membership [of *Yachad BeYeshua*].

The term of service for a member of the Commission shall be four years renewable. Members of the ICC shall be eligible to serve on the Theological Commission.

***Special provision applying only to the founding of Yachad BeYeshua and the initial election of leaders:***

- 1. Attendees of the August 2018 Dallas Conversation shall be invited to join Yachad BeYeshua as Founding Members.*
- 2. The initial election of ICC officers and will take place following approval of the Charter.*
- 3. To prevent the complete turnover of the ICC (other than the Moderator and Assistant-Moderators) every four years, one Messianic, one Catholic/Orthodox, and one Reformation/Evangelical/Pentecostal member elected to the ICC shall serve an initial term of four rather than two years. The three ICC members to serve this longer term of office shall be chosen by the Moderator and the two Assistant-Moderators, after the election.*