



Members Policy

Yachad BeYeshua exists so that Jewish disciples of Yeshua throughout the world, and in varied ecclesial contexts, might forge a common global identity. As such, Yachad BeYeshua seeks:

- to encourage Jewish disciples of Yeshua to live as a corporate expression of *Am Israel* within the body of the Messiah in all its ecclesial variety;
- to empower them to live as a corporate expression of the *ecclesia* within the Jewish people; and
- to embody and express the prophetic message which a global and inter-confessional fellowship of Jewish disciples of Yeshua represents

Mission Statement

To unite Jewish disciples of Jesus in loving fellowship as a witness to God's faithfulness to Israel and the Church

Core Values

- Love for Yeshua our Lord (*Devekut Yeshua Adonaynu*)
- Love for our Jewish brothers and sisters, the people of Israel (*Ahavat Yisrael*)
- Love for the Body of Messiah (*Chibat Guf HaMashiach*)

Membership Criteria

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*. They are asked to confirm that

- they have made a confession of faith in Yeshua, normally through Baptism/Tevilat Mashiach
- they seek to live a life to the glory of the God of Israel
- they support the mission and purposes of Yachad BeYeshua as articulated in its mission statement, core values, charter and bylaws
- they are willing to accept as brothers and sisters in Jesus those from the other ecclesial communities represented in Yachad BeYeshua, and to relate to all fellow members with kindness
- they are willing to respect the theological statements adopted by Yachad BeYeshua as normative for its common life

While we do not propose a definitive answer to the much-debated question “Who is a Jew?”, for the purposes of membership it is sufficient to have one Jewish grandparent.¹

The list of *Yachad BeYeshua* members 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, they may choose to do so.

Membership Fees

There are no membership fees, but all members are encouraged to support *Yachad BeYeshua* financially on an annual basis according to their means. We suggest a minimal contribution of \$20 per year, with those who are able giving more according to their means.

Family Privileges

Spouses and children of members of *Yachad BeYeshua* may be included in all activities of *Yachad BeYeshua* normally reserved for members, with the exception of voting in *Yachad BeYeshua* elections or business meetings or being elected to office.

Renewal of Membership

In order to allow *Yachad BeYeshua* to maintain an accurate and up to date directory of members, each member of *Yachad BeYeshua* is asked to confirm their membership every three years.

Removal from Membership

In exceptional circumstances membership of *Yachad BeYeshua* may be removed, if the member is no longer in agreement with the Charter of *Yachad BeYeshua* or serious issues of moral and spiritual conduct arise. Members may have the right to appeal such a decision, but the ruling of the International Coordinating Committee will be final.

¹ 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, or conversion to Judaism under the auspices of Jewish religious authorities considered reputable by *Yachad BeYeshua*.

Yeshua in Light of the Christian and Jewish Traditions

According to its founding Charter, all members of Yachad BeYeshua are Jews who confess Jesus as the Messiah of Israel, the Son of God and the Lord of all. We understand this to imply affirmation of the unity of the one God of Israel, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and likewise of the divine-human identity of Jesus the Messiah, the incarnate eternal Son of God.

We intend these affirmations as congruent with the ecumenical creeds of the early Church. At the same time, we are dedicated to developing an approach to these truths that reflects traditional Jewish sensibilities and modes of understanding, and that enriches our common faith in Yeshua as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Lord of all.

As an expression of its three core values (i.e., love for Jesus, Israel, and the Church), Yachad BeYeshua seeks to honor the Messiah by respecting the gifts received through the Jewish and Christian traditions. All members of Yachad BeYeshua are asked to share this basic attitude.

A Common Practical Approach to Issues of Sexual Morality

Controversies over matters of sexual morality have caused divisions within many Jewish and Christian organizations. Yachad BeYeshua exists to unite a wide spectrum of Jewish disciples of Yeshua in loving fellowship, and we seek to prevent such controversies from damaging our relationships with one another.

Most of our members participate in church and synagogue communities which view sexual relations as proper only in the context of the marriage of one man and one woman. Consequently, Yachad BeYeshua will treat this traditional view as the norm for our common life in Yachad BeYeshua.

Yachad BeYeshua does not seek to mandate private opinions on such matters. However, in order to preserve our unity, members agree to respect this traditional perspective as the norm governing Yachad BeYeshua activities and gatherings. They will also refrain in Yachad BeYeshua settings from speech or action which calls unnecessary attention to these issues and makes them a point of controversy.