

## **Purpose of the Stouffville Covenant**

What this document is:

- As members of the international council meeting together in October 2013, we see this as being like a renewal of marriage vows, reminding and affirming one another of why we came together in the first place and what unites us as EI.
- A common commitment of something we will be accountable to
- A milestone in the History of EI – in future we and others can look back and say ‘at this point in time, this group of people agreed this’

What this document is not:

- A replacement of the policy manual
- A Statement on the structure of EI
- A legal document

This document, once ratified by all the individual boards of affiliates and the international board, will be the foundational document defining our ministry and uniting us as a worldwide family.

## The Stouffville Covenant

### 1 Mission of EI

**We affirm** the mission of Emmanuel International, which is “**to encourage, equip and assist churches to serve the poor in wholistic ministry.**”

**We hereby commit** to focusing our efforts on encouraging, equipping and assisting churches to serve the poor in wholistic ministry. This vision will be the primary aim of each of the respective parts of EI over which we have influence or responsibility. The implementation of this mission and the strategies involved will be different for each of us depending on our own contexts, however, the reason why EI exists remains: “**to encourage, equip and assist churches to serve the poor in wholistic ministry.**”

By church we mean – An existing group of believers with recognizable leadership who can affirm the EI statement of Faith and whose primary aim is to meet together for worship.

### 2 Values

#### 2.1. We are Christians

**We love and follow** Jesus Christ.

**We uphold** the truth of the Bible and seek to live according to its standards

**We share** Christ’s compassion for the poor, marginalised and vulnerable

**We believe** that submission to the Lordship of Christ and the good news of the Kingdom of God is central to addressing poverty in all its dimensions.

**We trust** in God’s provision for our life and ministry

**We follow** Christ’s example in seeking to reach the marginalised and poorest members of society.

**We acknowledge** that God in his grace has entrusted us to be good stewards of various resources with which to carry out His mission.

**We commit** to manage those resources God has entrusted us with integrity, efficiency, diligence and excellence, and to be accountable to one another for how we manage resources.

#### 2.2 Family

**We affirm** that EI is a family, an international multi-cultural community of fellow servants, caring for one another and serving God together.

**We commit** to loving each other as people created in God’s image, through serving, speaking the truth in love, and where we have differences, seeking to understand each other’s perspectives.

### **2.3 Partnering with churches**

**We affirm** that local churches, being visible expressions of the universal Church, are God's principally ordained agents of bringing about His Kingdom.

**We uphold** that the Church is God's primary instrument for bringing about His kingdom, and therefore we commit to developing strong and healthy partnerships with churches as the basis for our ministry.

**We recognize** that situations exist where it is not possible to work directly with partner churches, and in these situations after consultation and agreement with the International Council we may work with other partner organisations, still with the long term aim of encouraging, equipping and assisting churches to serve the poor wholistically.

### **2.4 Wholistic ministry**

**We recognize** that as people created in God's image, we have physical, spiritual, and relational dimensions which are integrated to make us whole people.

**We seek** to follow Jesus' example recognising the best response to addressing poverty integrates spiritual development with improved physical, psychological, social and financial health.

### **2.5 Sustainability**

**We seek** to build the capacity of local churches and their communities in order that they are better equipped to address the root causes of poverty in a sustainable fashion.

**We commit** to build on the past and learn from each other to develop best practices in sustainable wholistic ministry.

### **2.6 Impartial**

**We commit** to working with our partner churches to serve people according to their whole needs, regardless of race, religion, or gender.

**We affirm** that meeting people's basic needs will not be conditional on acceptance of a particular religious view or belief or practice.

**We uphold** people's right to be entirely free to make up their own minds in regards to faith.

### **2.7 Facilitating Global Sharing**

**We seek** to be a facilitator of strategic cooperation, encouraging healthy interdependency among churches worldwide

### **2.8 Resourcing**

**We may** access resources from any donors that do not compromise our values

Signed by:

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