



## CYMFed Membership Statement and Policy

### ABOUT US

CYMFed, the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation of England and Wales seeks to help shape and support Catholic youth ministry within member dioceses, orders, movements and organisations. The Federation is made up of the principal youth officers of the Catholic dioceses of England and Wales, religious orders and organisations. CYMFed is recognised and supported by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) and is a member of the Department for Catechesis and Evangelisation.

CYMFed's starting point is to be found in the principle of synodality. We recognise that it takes the whole Church to minister effectively to young people. CYMFed seeks to help, shape and support youth ministry throughout the federation, encouraging and facilitating members working together in a spirit of mutual and reciprocal responsibility. By cultivating a nationwide atmosphere of encouragement and providing opportunity where possible, CYMFed members collectively deliver a shared vision for youth ministry and best practice for the benefit of young people across England and Wales. From this collective working, CYMFed is able to provide a national voice for youth ministry and insight into youth culture to the Bishops' Conference and other bodies both within and outside of the Church.

*“Youth ministry has to be synodal; it should involve a ‘journeying together’ that values ‘the charisms that the Spirit bestows in accordance with the vocation and role of each of the Church’s members, through a process of co-responsibility.” (Pope Francis, Christus Vivit, 206)*

CYMFed works formally as a Federation on large projects such as Flame and the Faith in Action Award. At the same time, and of equal value, is the work that members collaborate on in smaller groups and in an informal way according to need.

CYMFed's way of working is consonant with its starting point of synodality. The Federation is only as strong, active and unified as its members. As disciples working in the vineyard of the Lord, there are times when members work to support each other as they bear the ‘heat of the day’ in ministry. At other times they collaborate on projects which pool skillsets and resources that may not be easily available to individual members.

*‘Give and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing will be poured into your lap.’ (Luke 6:38)*

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to each Catholic Diocese in England & Wales, religious orders, organisations and movements and appropriate other bodies engaged in youth ministry in a Catholic context.

There are two levels of CYMFed membership; Full and collaborative.

### **FULL MEMBERSHIP**

All full members must commit a 'Principal Officer' with decision making authority in their own Diocese, Order, Movement or Organisation to attend membership meetings of CYMFed.

#### **Dioceses of England and Wales**

Each Catholic Diocese within England and Wales is eligible to be a full member of CYMFed. A representative from each Diocese will be the 'Principal Officer' as designated by the Diocesan Bishop. It is expected that this person will have decision making authority for Youth Ministry within the Diocese.

#### **Religious Orders and Congregations**

Religious Orders and Congregations, where one of their main activities is youth ministry in a Catholic context, may be eligible for full membership of CYMFed. It is required that:

- a member of the Order, or a paid staff member, has been appointed full time with responsibility for youth ministry, with decision making authority as appropriate to their Order.
- youth ministry is undertaken in an informal context.

It may be appropriate for particular projects of Religious Orders to join as an Organisation.

#### **Movements and Organisations**

Movements and Organisations, where one of their main activities is youth ministry in a Catholic context and who are working with the documented approval of a Bishop of CBCEW, may be eligible for full membership of CYMFed if their work is not restricted to only one Diocese, and if they also fulfil one or more of the following criteria:

- Full time worker appointed with responsibility for youth ministry
- An operational budget for youth ministry over £50,000
- Working with over 1000 young people each year in an informal youth ministry context.

Ex-officio members of the Board are full members of CYMFed.

### **COLLABORATIVE MEMBERSHIP**

CYMFed welcomes members who share in our mission, vision and activities. Movements, Organisations and Religious Orders who do not meet the requirements for full membership, but who are actively engaged in youth ministry may be eligible for collaborative membership. To be eligible for Collaborative Membership, organisations must:

- Be youth-orientated (a group that works directly or in-directly with or for young people), even if the main purpose of the group is not youth ministry

- Have a mission that is compatible with the aims and objectives of CYMFed and thereby with the teachings of the Catholic Church
- Show a willingness to participate in CYMFed's activities through attendance at CYMFed meetings, events and serving, as appropriate on CYMFed project groups.

Collaborative members may attend CYMFed Membership meetings but are not eligible to vote.

*Decisions with regard to membership of CYMFed, in all matters, are at the sole discretion of the CYMFed Board in accordance with the criteria of this policy. The Board may make decisions about the appropriateness of continuing membership of all members.*

### **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Annual full membership fees for dioceses are calculated proportionately by the number of mass-going Catholics using statistics from the CBCEW, ranging from £250 - £750.

The full membership fees for religious orders, organisations and movements is £250.

Collaborative members are asked for an annual contribution of £200. This slightly smaller fee takes into account that collaborative members are not eligible to vote on decisions at members' meetings. However, CYMFed's priority is membership and participation, not principally financial gain. If a member, full or collaborative, is not able to contribute the full amount, please discuss this with the CYMFed Project Officer.

All members will be sent an invoice by the CYMFed Treasurer. Prompt payment is appreciated for efficiency and for CYMFed to be able to plan activities around a realistic budget.

### **CYMFed Meetings**

The CYMFed membership meet a minimum of 3 times a year, concluding with an annual general meeting towards the end of the Gregorian year where the meeting dates for the following year are set.

At all meetings, the rights and views of each individual shall be respected and the meetings shall be conducted in a way that allows all individuals to participate positively, without fear of intimidation.

All representatives have the opportunity to contribute agenda items if they are of national importance and will take individual responsibility for ensuring the Project Officer receives reasonable notice of any items or relating information which would need to be circulated.

Meeting dates, agendas and previous minutes will be circulated by the Project Officer at least one week prior to the meeting. Members are asked to confirm their attendance or give apologies for all meetings.

Only one representative from each member organisation should attend CYMFed Members' meetings. This should be the person with decision-making authority for youth ministry in their diocese, order or organisation. This ensures continuity and that the discussion during meetings reflects the diversity of the CYMFed membership equally.