

Preamble

This document is intended to declare a memorandum of understanding between Transforming Sydney Movement Inc. and your organisation (as listed in the agreement section below) and form the foundation of our relationship.

The three-fold mission of Transforming Sydney is:

- 1) To bring unity among the body of Christ in Sydney.
- 2) To see the Kingdom of God in Sydney as it is in Heaven.
- 3) To focus on transformation in three areas of society: Family, Church and Marketplace.

Transforming Sydney binds itself to the apostolic foundation laid in Canon Scripture (the Old and New Testaments) and Creeds (e.g. the Apostles and Nicene Creeds) as passed to us from the forefathers of the Church, and we agree with the Covenant, aims and principles of the Lausanne Movement (<http://www.lausanne.org/>).

We ask in our joint activities that you put aside doctrinal arguments and positions, apart from the fundamental elements described in the Creeds, the 10 Commandments received by Moses, and God's natural laws. Transforming Sydney seeks to be representative of all denominations in Sydney that adhere to the Creeds, and whilst recognising that we have many doctrinal differences, considers the basis of our redemption in Christ, His mandates to us to love God and one another, His Commission to preach the Gospel, and the wonderful variety of gifts given to God's people are of far greater importance.

We also ask that you put aside any financial expectations: Transforming Sydney will not ask for donations and subsequently does not provide donations itself, however we do encourage others to support and donate to those organisations that we partner with.

Principles

With reference to our mission, Transforming Sydney extends the hand of partnership to your organisation to:

- Further the spreading of the Gospel of Christ, for His glorification and not ours
- Work together on nominated events and projects in real and demonstrable love and unity (specific responsibilities and goals will be pre-agreed for each event or project)
- Share appropriate information relating to mutual concerns and areas of interest
- Lift each other's ministry and activities in regular prayer to the Living God for thanks, protection and provision
- Share each other's callings and gifts for the good of the body of Christ: His people and His ecclesia (Churches)
- Connect each other with organisations and bodies that share our respective goals (for peer-support and encouragement)
- Connect each other with organisations and bodies in your geographical region (if you are locality-based) to positively impact the areas around you
- Reject gossip or slander about each other and direct and commit all sources of such to Christ in prayer

We recommend you also read the 7 principles reproduced from the Transform World Handbook in the appendix below.



Declaration

The Transforming Sydney Vision, Mission, Goals and Values are published on the website – if you are happy with these aims, the commitments listed above and wish to partner with us, please sign the below declaration:

I,
(authorised officer name) (authorised officer role)

of
(organisation name)

accept the above commitments to Transforming
Sydney Movement Inc. on behalf of my
Organisation, declared before my heavenly
family and before my Father God. Amen.
(signature & date)

I,
(authorised officer name) (authorised officer role)
of Transforming Sydney Movement Inc.
accept the above commitments to our
partner organisations, declared before
my heavenly family and before my
Father God. Amen.
(signature & date)

(Two copies to be signed and one copy retained by each party.)



Appendix - Transformation Partnerships

Seven Key Principles for Effective Work Together

(From the Transform World Handbook)

Principle # 1 - Vision

Effective partnerships for transformation require an inspiring, action-oriented vision. The vision must clearly be beyond the capacity of an individual or single ministry. That vision must meet three criteria:

- The vision must clearly be something God wants done.
- There must be clear value and relevance for each participating ministry – bringing value to their ministry goals
- There must be limited yet high value, achievable objectives in the beginning allowing the partnership to have encouraging success in the early stages

Scripture: Nehemiah 1:11-18, Proverbs 29:18, Isaiah 50:7, John 10:10, John 17:4.

Principle #2 - Prayer

Effective transformation partnerships are built on commitment to active, consistent prayer. The prayer must focus on:

- Our relationships as we work together
- Those we are seeking to reach & serve
- Wisdom regarding the specific vision God puts on our hearts
- The consensus & unity we need to focus our energy & work together
- Any differences in background and ideas on strategy
- For our families and those who support and pray for us
- That Satan's power will be broken and Jesus' power will break through

Scripture: I Samuel 12:23, Proverbs 15:8-9, Matthew 21:22, Acts 1:14, 6:4, Romans 12:12

Principle #3 - Relationship

Effective partnerships are based on open, trusting relationships. These relationships are built by:

- Taking time to truly know each other's spiritual journey and ministry vision
- Taking time to know each other's family, ministry experience, and calling
- Spending time in prayer – for each other first and then for the work together
- Being committed to each other's personal welfare, not just the partnership's success
- Focusing on the things we have in common, not the differences that can divide us

Scripture: Psalm 133, Matthew 5:23, John 17:21-23, Romans 12, Ephesians 4:3



Principle #4 – Progression

Effective, lasting partnerships for transformation are a process, not an event. Key stages are:

- Exploration (getting to know the key leaders and the primary issues)
- Formation (meeting, praying, defining vision/goals, deciding on action)
- On-going operation (turning the initial limited but high-value goals into action)

Key elements are:

- Get to know one another and build relationships, initially “one on one”
- Calling a group meeting too early can often be counterproductive
- Keep the big challenge clearly in everyone’s heart but agree on very practical outcomes particularly in the early stages
- Small steps first, bigger ones later - walk before you run

Scripture: Joshua 1:5-9, Nehemiah 3, John 4:35-38, I Corinthians 3:1-9

Principle #5 - Facilitation

Effective transformation partnerships have a dedicated facilitator for whom the partnership and its vision is their primary priority. This person must:

- Be both servant and prophet
- Be energetic, always looking forward, yet patient, always ready to listen, serve, and deal with day to day issues
- Be committed to the partnership’s transformation goals and the welfare of each partner ministry
- Be able to keep confidential matters confidential and always do what they personally promise
- Be a person of spiritual maturity, compassion, and personal integrity
- Hold strongly the conviction that the power of the Gospel transforms lives and communities

Scripture: II Chronicles 1:7-12, Nehemiah 1:4-9, II Corinthians 1:24, Galatians 5:22-26, I Peter 5:3-7

Principle #6 – Goal-oriented

Effective transformation partnerships focus first on the what (the goal) rather than the how (the structure).

The human spirit seeks to find safety in structure and predictability. Starting first with organizational issues is a dead-end for transformational partnerships. Vision must always come first. Always keep the organizational structure to the absolute minimum necessary to accomplish the partnership’s vision. Do as much as possible through prayer and consensus rather than depending on a constitution and voting rights!

Scripture: Judges 7:1-25, II Samuel 5:17-25, Mark 6:7-13, Acts 13:1-3, I Corinthians 1:27

Principle #7 – Unity

Effective transformation partnerships celebrate the diversity of their members, their common calling, and the success God gives them. Lasting Kingdom partnerships are rare and must be celebrated as we see His Spirit’s blessing. Celebration acknowledges that we can do more together than we can do individually. The diversity in backgrounds, callings, and gifts that make up our partnership are a demonstration of God’s generosity and call for celebration. Acknowledging success and celebrating what God has done as we work together brings hope and encouragement to expand the vision and carry on.

Scripture: Nehemiah 12:27-43, Luke 10:17-24, Acts 14:26-28, I Corinthians 1:4-10, 12:12-26

