



## ***How does your church or group become part of the Community of the Cross of Nails?***

The following steps set out the process of developing your relationship with CCN and becoming a Partner.

### **STEP 1**

Familiarise yourself with the mission statement

#### **GROWING TOGETHER IN HOPE**

The Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN) is a Christian network of churches and organisations who, drawn together by the story of Coventry Cathedral, share a common commitment to work and pray for peace justice and reconciliation through:

Healing the wounds of history

Learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity

Building a culture of peace

### **STEP 2**

Understand what the CCN is and what it involves

We are a relational **Network** which aims to be organic with no centralised structure. It operates under the authority and direction of Coventry Cathedral, its Dean and chapter and is facilitated by the Reconciliation Ministry Team, with the Canon Director for Reconciliation Ministry providing day to day direction to its policy and programme development.

We are a network of **Partners** who are churches and organisations.

We are a **Christian** faith-based reconciliation ministry whose partners are committed to working and relating within this ethos.

We are a network **Drawn Together** by the story of Coventry Cathedral and its Cross of Nails, and its partners have an ongoing relationship with Coventry Cathedral.

We share a **Common Commitment** to work and pray for peace, justice and reconciliation. We nurture this among our network through mutual support, fellowship, occasional joint action and the invitation to a common discipline in the *Coventry Way*.

We are a **Fellowship** expressed through:

maintaining links and regular communication

Making donations towards the general work of CCN, and to its Partner and Gathering Bursary funds. We invite all new Partners who are able to make an initial donation to the CCN Partner fund to cover the cost of manufacturing the Cross of Nails. (£100 or Euro 120 or US \$150). (National boards in Germany, North America and Netherlands may have other additional financial requirements.)

Participating in **National** co-ordinating groups (boards or committees), **Regional** and **International** gatherings.

## STEP 3

### Demonstrate your commitment to reconciliation

CCN Partners are those who will make a common commitment to work and pray together for peace, justice and reconciliation and actively share in the life of the network.

To become a CCN Partner you will need to demonstrate your commitment to the ethos of CCN as expressed in steps 1 and 2. You do this by preparing a written application which sets out the evidence to demonstrate how you fulfil the criteria and reflect a commitment to the mission statement in your life and ministry. A series of guideline questions are set out in the appendix below.

a. Show how your church or organisation reflects at least one of the three purposes of CCN in its life and priorities:

Healing the wounds of history

Learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity

Building a culture of peace

b. Provide evidence of how this is related to your active ministry or work in one or more of three areas:

Maintaining a **WITNESS** to the values of peace, justice and reconciliation in your life or in the purpose of your site e.g. commemoration event, peace chapel, memorial, the site of destruction or violent death, a place of significance for peace in a nation/ community.

Sharing in **PRAYER** for peace, justice and reconciliation in the church and in the wider world e.g. through a regular prayer gathering for this purpose at which the Coventry Litany for Reconciliation is used. We encourage all CCN Partners where possible to say the Litany at 12 noon each Friday.

Participating in **ACTION** for peace, justice and reconciliation through initiatives in local, national, regional or international contexts e.g. a church engaged in support of reconciliation between churches in a town, in working with marginalised communities in your neighbourhood, or in partnership with a church in an active conflict zone or of a former enemy.

Supporting others as a **RESOURCE** for reconciliation and peacebuilding work, especially through the CCN network e.g. a residential learning facility, experienced and skilled members willing to travel and provide support and training to others.

c. Provide commendation for your reconciliation ministry from existing CCN Partners or senior Christian leaders with knowledge of your work.

## STEP 4

### Nurture the relationship with Coventry.

To give tangible expression to this, even if your interest in joining has arisen from a visit to Coventry or contact with its team, prospective CCN partners are encouraged if possible to come on a pilgrimage to Coventry Cathedral, normally of between one and three days duration. Dates will be set each year for CCN pilgrimages which will involve several new and even existing Partners and so relationships are built across the network.



During 2012 attendance at the international gathering in September will be the only pilgrimage date for that year, so that as many from the CCN as possible will join us to mark 50 years of the new Cathedral.

There may be financial assistance available from the Bursary fund to assist with travel and cover accommodation for the pilgrimage.

## **STEP 5**

### Reach out to other CCN Partners

Develop and maintain a relationship with CCN Partners in your nation or region, and where a co-ordinating group exists, share in its life and programme. In Germany, Netherlands and North America, there are formal boards for CCN. Applicants from these countries should contact their relevant person either before or at the same time as making contact with Coventry. Partners of the Community of the Cross of Nails are expected to be active in the network, and send representatives to national, regional or international gatherings when possible.

## **STEP 6**

### Become a CCN Partner

The CCN International Representatives meeting review your application and issue the formal invitation to become a CCN Partner.

## **STEP 7**

### Arrange for the presentation of your Cross of Nails

Becoming part of the CCN is marked by the presentation of a Cross of Nails to your church or group. This normally takes place during a visit from a senior member of Coventry Cathedral and takes place at an appropriate event or service. The Coventry representative may be asked to speak or preach and a Liturgy for receiving a Cross of Nails will be provided. Each cross presented is blessed at a Coventry Cathedral service before being sent with the prayers of the Cathedral community for the new CCN Partner. New CCN Partners are responsible for the costs of return travel from Coventry and accommodation on arrival. Financial assistance may be available from the Partner Bursary Fund.

### ***Now that you are part of the CCN:***

Please keep in touch.

- Use the daily prayer guide on the website.
- Follow our news on the website, facebook and twitter.
- Share your reconciliation related news for inclusion on the website and the monthly e-newsletter.
- Plan to attend national, regional and international gatherings when possible.
- Come on pilgrimage to Coventry.
- Attend learning and training courses at St Michael's House in Coventry.

Please ask if there is any way in which the team at Coventry Cathedral and the wider CCN Network can support and encourage you in your reconciliation ministry.

## APPENDIX

### Guidelines for writing an application for CCN

The CCN is a relational network of churches and groups sharing a common commitment to reconciliation. We do not have a formal application form but invite you to prepare a written submission as set out in Step 3 above.

These guidelines are provided to help you through this step. Some of them may not be relevant so use what helps you best show us your commitment to reconciliation and belonging to CCN. In writing an application you should:

#### Provide

- Name and address of organisation (both postal and location if different).
- Name of contact person, their role and address if different from organisation.
- Name and contact details for your minister / leader if not the contact person.
- Relevant email addresses, website and telephone numbers.
- Your mission statement or the aims of your organisation. If you are not a church, the summary should include a statement of your organisation's Christian commitment:

#### Tell us

- About your organisation, including a brief history.
- Those aspects of reconciliation set out in Step 3 which are addressed by your ministry. Include concrete examples of recent work. Published reports, photographs etc may be sent to support your application.
- About your relationship with Coventry Cathedral. When and how did it start? If it is only beginning, why does the Coventry Cathedral CCN attract you as a useful relationship for developing your reconciliation ministry? Would your members be willing to join a pilgrimage to Coventry as part of the process of becoming a Partner?
- If you have a relationship with other CCN partners in your own country or region.
- If you are not a church, about your relationship with your local or national churches. How do they share your vision and your work?
- What difference would it make to your ministry if you were to become a CCN Partner? How do you see your relationships growing with Coventry Cathedral and within the CCN network?
- If the organisation agrees to share in prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation in the church and world including regular use of the Litany of Reconciliation. Briefly explain what opportunities for prayer exist within your organisation.

You are welcome to add any other information which you think may be useful to us in getting to know you and your commitment to reconciliation.