

## **ASSOCIATES IN YOUTH FOR CHRIST FROM JUNE (THE GATHERING) 2007**

Outlined below is the *updated* process by which people can make become an associate. This is by no means the “total package” but it is the framework on which we will start to operate from the Gathering onwards.

Any non member involved in Incedo who seems to be “getting what we are about” can be approached by a member (or take the initiative themselves) and be asked to consider becoming an *associate*. They will then be in a “mentor-type” relationship with one or more members. This is because members know the people they are journeying with, and are therefore qualified to “make a call” as to their suitability. This relationship between Associates and Members is the key, as we will not keep a “central database” of associates. The responsibility of ensuring that associates are “on track” will rest on the shoulders of the members in relationship with them. There is complete trust in members to faithfully serve associates, and provide accountability.

So how does this practically work out? There will be no separate set of associate practises; but regular mission involvement plus attendance at Surge, Converge, and local area gatherings will be the minimum commitment for associate members. They will work out between themselves what Incedo practices should/need be to be followed by the associate. The key will be growth in areas where there is a “weakness”, and encouragement where there are strengths. For example, if the weakness is in the area of prayer, it makes sense that there should be the challenge to grow in that area. So developing a good prayer culture becomes the focus, as opposed to letting people choose what they are comfortable with.

Converge will be associate and co-operator focused, so the onus on all members will be to serve associates from different areas, not just on the ones they connect with in their area.

We no longer operate in a way that requires all decisions to be made “upstairs”, so there will be complete confidence in members to make “the call” regarding this stage of the process. Being members, they will have the heartbeat of who we are striving to become. This is also outworking the fact that we are a “*priesthood of believers*”.

To become a member two members will recommend an associate to the MLT for further discussion.

And finally anyone involved in Incedo in any capacity can voluntarily follow whatever practices they want to at any time without needing permission.

**MLT May 2007**