

Christian Medical Fellowship Nurses Student Staff Worker - Background information

CMF's history, aims and values

The Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF) was founded in 1949 and has over 4,500 British doctor members in all branches of medicine, and over 1,000 student members. We are linked with over 60 similar national groups worldwide through the International Christian Medical and Dental Association.

CMF's aims¹ are to unite Christian doctors and medical students, to encourage them to be witnesses for Christ, among all those they meet, to mobilise and support them in serving Christ throughout the world and to promote Christian values² in the profession, church and in society.

Over twenty staff based in our London Office or around the country help members keep in touch, coordinate our busy conference and publishing programme and provide helpful support and advice.

While CMF has been primarily an organization for doctors and medical students

CMF's activities

Fellowship - In almost every medical school and in most regions local groups of doctors and students meet regularly together for teaching, encouragement, fellowship and support. A busy programme of national and regional weekend and day conferences runs throughout the year and a growing number of CMF 'communities' enable members to cultivate special interests with like-minded colleagues.

Training - We provide training to help doctors, students and other healthcare professionals to practise medicine that meets the needs of the whole person and also share their faith. We also organise breakfasts, evening meals and dialogue events where colleagues and others have the opportunity to hear the gospel, raise objections, engage in discussion and have their questions answered.

Public policy - We play a strategic role by providing thoughtful and clear written resources for students and doctors and authoritative submissions to official bodies. We also equip Christian doctors to speak out personally, through NHS trusts and hospitals, through the BMA and Royal Colleges, through government and on the Christian, secular and medical media – both nationally and internationally.

Mission - Over 140 of our members work abroad fulltime, in 45 different countries with a variety of mission and secular agencies. Another 250, based in the UK, are actively involved in some form of short-term overseas mission activity on a regular basis or in supporting sister organisations abroad.

Publications - Our quarterly publications *Triple Helix*, *Nucleus* and *CMF News*, together with three different websites and a whole host of books, CDs and other resources keep members informed and up to date on all things both Christian and medical.

Students - CMF has a vibrant and active student ministry with over 1,000 student members. Students can join as full members from day one of their studies and benefit through conferences, literature, local support and international links.

Office

We moved to our newly refurbished freehold property in Southwark, London in June 2007. In addition, we have tenants who are also our ministry partners; the Lawyers Christian Fellowship, Friends of Ludhiana, Care not Killing and the Christian Institute, between them occupying about 10% of the floor space. The building has a big conference room (which can take about 60) which we use both for CMF meetings and also for inexpensive hire to Christian organisations. The office is well equipped with modern IT equipment, which makes it a very good working environment for our staff.

Staff team

CMF has recently undergone a review which resulted in reorganisation of the office team into ministry departments, each headed by a senior member of staff, most of them medical doctors. The current team is 15 full time equivalents comprising Chief Executive, Central Services, Student ministries, International ministries, Graduate ministries and Communications. There have been a number of staff changes in the

last two years and the current team is stable and well-placed with the right mix of competencies to serve CMF in the future.

Governance

CMF has a General Committee that meets annually and elects a Board of Trustees comprising 4-5 officers and member representatives from various regions. Currently, the Executive Committee has 18 members and meets four times a year. The Business Advisory Committee advises the Board of Trustees on financial, business and personnel matters and also meets four times a year. In addition, there are a number of 'Ministry Committees', as illustrated in the chart below.

CNM's history, aims, values and activities

Christian Nurses and Midwives (CNM) is an association of about 200 Christians in nursing, midwifery and health visiting that grew up in the early part of the last decade out of the UCCF Christian Student Nurses and Midwives group, and from other Christian nurses who had begun to meet after the demise of the Nurses Christian Fellowship in 1995.

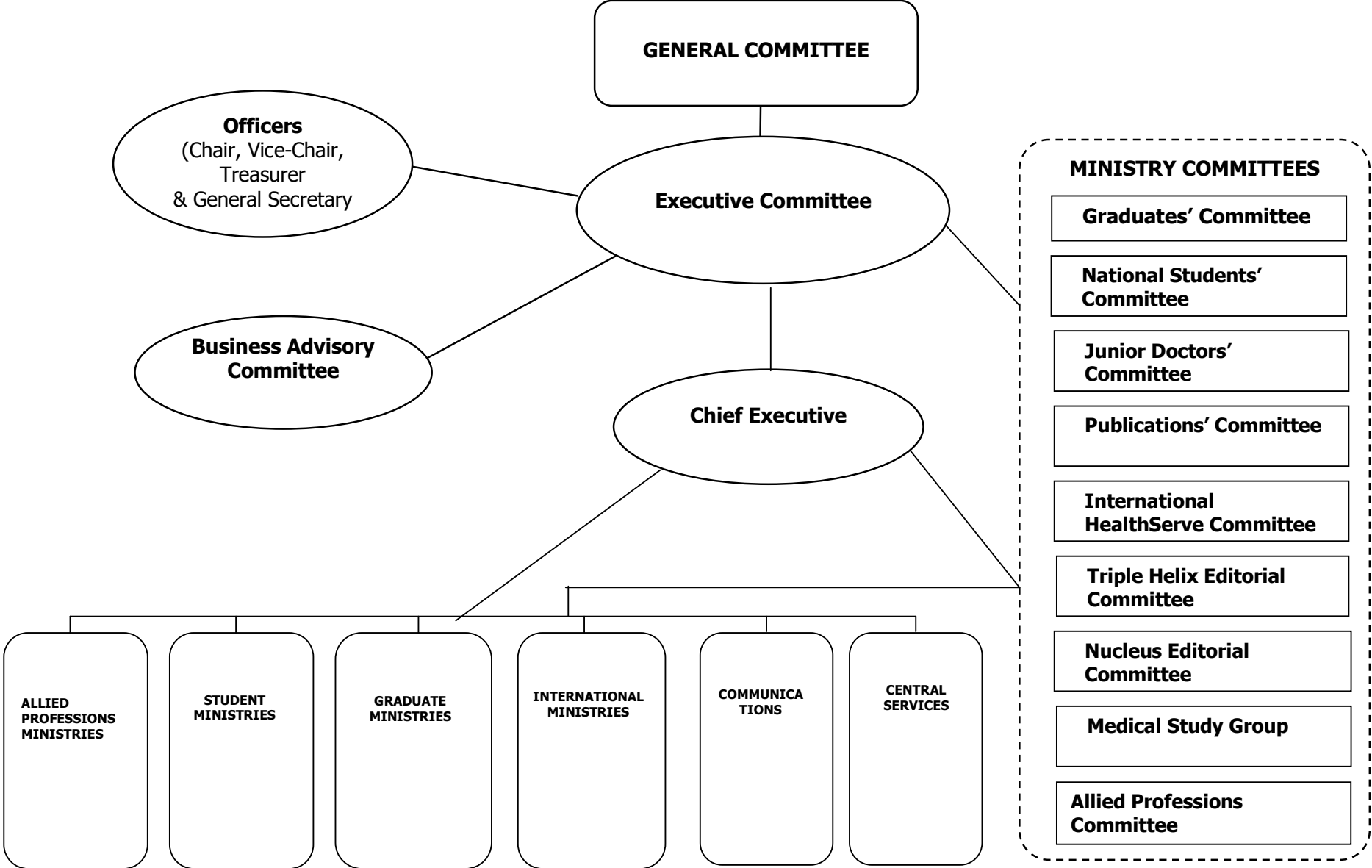
Constituted in 2001, admitting students to full membership from 2005, and formally registered with the Charity Commission in 2007, CNM is also a member of the Nurses Christian Fellowship International and works closely with CMF, UCCF, Christian Therapists Network and a number of other ministries to Christian in the healthcare professions.

Its aims are to bring Christians in the caring professions together for support, prayer and encouragement, to promote Christian values in the professions, support local networks of fellowship and prayer, strengthen and support students and encourage missionary interests.

CNM is run by a Council elected each year by members at an Annual General Meeting.

CNM's main activities are the production of a regular (3-4 times a year) newsletter *CNM News*, organising regular day conference and weekend conferences. It also works through an association of local groups that meet regularly for prayer and fellowship in different parts of England and Wales.

CMF STRUCTURE



CMF Allied Professions Ministries

CMF has grown over the last few decades to a membership of about 5,500 Christian doctors and medical students, providing a range of conferences publications and other service to members in a network of local and regional groups and medical school fellowships. While we have a considerable voice and influence within the profession and the wider Christian community in the UK and internationally, there is no comparably sized network for Christians in nursing or the allied health professions in this country.

While there are several small networks for Christians in the allied and nursing health professions in the UK with whom CMF has worked for many years, none have the resources nor the reach and influence that CMF does. Yet there are an estimated 400,000 plus nurses working in the NHS alone, so if representation of Christians in nursing was proportional to CMF's representation of doctors, we should see a nursing fellowship of between 20-30,000 members. The other allied professions groups should constitute a comparably large representation.

We believe therefore that there is a real gap in support for Christians working in the other healthcare professions. Because many go into these professions later in life rather than as school leavers, they are often well integrated into local churches so often do not see the need for a specialist fellowship. However, as we know from our own members, local churches are by and large not geared up to the professional and workplace issues that they face.

Why Should CMF Develop an Allied Professions Ministry?

As our members face more challenges to faith and practice in the face of new Government policies and social trends, we need to have a strong body of allies amongst the other health professions, both for fellowship/support, and as fellow voices to be raised to bring Christian perspectives into national debates. Strong nursing and allied professions fellowships will strengthen the ministry of CMF and our members, and vice versa.

However, as things currently stand there are neither the resources nor the manpower to start building such networks and fellowships within these professional groups – it will need an injection of personnel, money and other resources. CMF is uniquely placed to do this because we have a strong and sizeable membership base that at the local level is often in close contact with Christians in other health professions, and because we have a strong funding base in our members. We also have a strong, established student and graduates work and a range of student and graduate publications, events and courses that can be readily adapted for nurses and allied health professionals.

However, the long term aim of such a ministry should ultimately be to develop the networks amongst Christian nurses and allied health professionals to the extent that they are able to take on, manage and fund this work themselves, so the end point of any strategic plan in this area must be towards handing the work over.

Aims

The aims of the allied professions ministry over the next three years will be to:

- A. Support the development networks (local, regional and national) of Christians in nursing and the allied professions for fellowship, support, prayer and study of scripture.
- B. Through these networks, equip Christian health professionals to serve Christ effectively in their clinical practice, encouraging critical, Biblical thinking about professional and workplace issues and practice.
- C. Help build and tap into communities of expertise in the nursing and allied health professions in relating Christian faith to professional, ethical and clinical issues.
- D. Advocate for Christians in the allied health professions to professional, local, regional and national health bodies, etc.
- E. Strengthen the public voice and profile of Christians in the allied health professions.
- F. Strengthen and develop these networks such that they are able to take on, fund manage and further develop the work themselves.

Strategy

1. Develop a network of local groups for nursing and allied professional students within existing CMF, UCCF and other Christian Union networks, or independently if necessary – initially focussing on London and the southeast of England. This will be in partnership particularly with UCCF, CNM, NCFS and CTN.
2. Strengthen and develop existing networks/fellowships for Christians in the allied health professions around the UK in partnership with CNM, NCFS, CTN and HCF.

3. Run national and regional conference programmes (around 3 events a year), day and residential, for students and graduates around the UK in partnership with CNM and CTN principally, but looking at events run jointly with HCF and NCFS where appropriate.
4. Start a programme of Saline Solution day courses around the UK in conjunction with the other groups listed – three to six events a year.
5. Develop web based and other publications and resources for individual Christian health professionals and local groups, including Bible study resources, ethics and professional issues discussion/briefing papers and study guides, etc.
6. Work with CTN, NCFS and CNM (initially) on joint media and press strategies on key events, including more nurses and allied professions on media training and press lists.
7. Work with CNM, NCFS and CTN on strategies to raise representation and profile of Christian networks within professional bodies.
8. Run two or three allied profession focussed Mission Roadshow events with the CMF International Department each year.
9. Build a network and database of allied health professionals and nurses working overseas, and a strategy for supporting and resourcing them, as well as helping them input into envisioning and training Christians in the allied professions to be engaged with global mission.

August 2009

¹ CMF was established for the advancement of the Christian Faith, in particular amongst members of the medical profession. The aims of the Fellowship, summarised as discipleship, evangelism, mission and proclamation are:

- To unite Christian doctors and medical students in Christ, and to encourage them to deepen their faith, live like Christ, and serve him obediently, particularly through acting competently and with compassion in their medical practice.
- To encourage Christian doctors and medical students to be witnesses for Christ among all those they meet.
- To mobilise and support all Christian doctors, medical students, and other healthcare professionals, especially members, in serving Christ throughout the world.
- To promote Christian values, especially in bioethics and healthcare, among doctors and medical students, in the church and in society.

² The values that guide our members, and which your role would support, are:

- To acknowledge, love and obey God as the Creator, Sustainer and Lord of all life.
- To practise whole-person medicine which addresses our patients' physical, emotional and spiritual needs
- To maintain the deepest respect for human life from its beginning to its end, including the unborn, the disabled and the elderly
- To serve our patients according to their need regardless of age, race, creed, politics, social status or the circumstances which may have contributed to their illness.
- To care sacrificially for the poor, vulnerable and marginalized.
- To uphold marriage, faithfulness and the family.
- To speak the truth, respect privacy and safeguard our patients' confidences.
- To put our patients first whilst fully accepting our duty to promote preventive medicine and public health.
- To deal honestly with our professional and administrative colleagues and to respect the governing authorities
- To work constructively in scientific research and in training others for the benefit of individual patients and the advance of health care throughout the world.