

## **PARTNERING WITH CHURCHES – Guiding policy document 01/02/03**

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What can the local church offer SCO?

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### **Rational**

1. SCO is a Students' Christian Organisation. To SCO this means that, SCO co-exists in partnership with the church
2. SCO is part of the broader church
3. Student life represents only a stage of life, which is temporary and dynamic
4. Student community has a high rate of turn over by virtue of its nature
5. Students are comprised of a homogeneous age group
6. Students are a specialised group with specific needs and opportunities.

Because of the above reasons: -

1. SCO recognises and seeks to compliment the role of the local church in the student world.
2. SCO also recognises its unique role as a student ministry within the broader church
3. SCO fosters loyalty of its members to the church as the body of Christ and local church in particular.

Partnering with local churches is aimed at harnessing the value that SCO and churches may bring to each other.

### **What value does the student ministry like SCO bring to the broader church?**

1. SCO is non-denominational and interdenominational. This opens opportunities for students from different denominational backgrounds to interact. This contributes to denominational tolerance and unity of the church.
2. SCO is National. This unites students all over the country to be able to bring a Christian perspective and a voice national issues affecting the students' world
3. SCO is student –led. This means that the students reach out to other students. One of the major advantages of this strategy is that it gives a platform for students to discover and exercise their gifts among their peers. Many Christian leaders in the church and outside are products of student ministry and a strategy of student-led ministry contributed to their leadership skills.
4. SCO is a specialised wing of the church in that it serves a specific target group, which ordinarily is not easy to reach. In many ways the student ministry is like a mission agent into student world.

## **Why does SCO need partnership with local church?**

SCO views itself as an arm of the church and therefore needs the church for its aims to be fulfilled. The support can be in one or all the following ways: -

- 1) Prayer support. The work that SCO is involved in needs consistent prayer support. It is to the local church that we turn to mobilise that support because our members and staff are members of those churches.
- 2) Financial support. SCO serves a constituency that is not yet earning and the work is financed by donations from individuals and churches. The churches can support SCO from church finances and can encourage members to give to SCO.
- 3) Co-operation in matters of common interest. There is usually an overlap between SCO and the local church, it maybe overlap of membership or an area of operation, or the issues that are tackled. This makes a formal relationship something that is both desirable and potentially beneficial.
- 4) Guidance and accountability. SCO seeks to serve and complement the local church in its ministry. For it to do that effectively, there is a need for a formal relationship that seeks to guide and hold SCO accountable to its ministry without undermining its autonomy

## **INTENDED OUTCOMES**

The aims of the partnership are to: -

1. Enable SCO to serve the local church in a practical way.
2. Increase co-operation between SCO and the local church
3. Persuade the church to use SCO as a vehicle through which it can reach the students world
4. Put a mechanism through which SCO can formally relate to the local church to receive its guidance and support
5. Help SCO remain true to its calling by formally making itself accountable to the broader Church through the local church partnership.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICALITIES**

- A. Since SCO is an inter-denominational and non-denominational organisation, its name cannot be used to promote or recruit for any particular local church or ministry.
- B. SCO is comprised of people with different political ideologies; therefore its name cannot be used for recruiting or promoting for any particular political organisation.
- C. SCO reserves the right to withdraw from any partnership that compromises its statement of faith or that militates against its aims and objectives.
- D. SCO's main focus is in schools and tertiary institutions. That fact limits the time and resources that can be availed to the local church. SCO therefore commits itself to use the limited time and resources in a way that will serve the partnership best.
- E. SCO is a non-profit organisation that depends on donations. SCO will seek to serve its partners at no cost to any service rendered but would appeal to the church to cover any expenses incurred in the rendering of the service.

## WHAT CAN SCO OFFER TO THE LOCAL CHURCHES?

### Services

- 1) **Leadership training**
- 2) **Bible study particular inductive bible study method**
- 3) **Small group leaders' training**
- 4) **Training on evangelism**
- 5) **HIV/AIDS / Sexuality**
- 6) **Retreats**

### Opportunities

1. **An opportunity to give:** The church in Africa, particularly the Black Church has not had an opportunity to be part of a missionary activity. SCO provides a structured and meaningful way of giving towards missionary activities.
2. **Sustaining a legacy:** For those that went through student ministry, SCO can give an assurance that the movement they experienced as students, in which they had formative life changing experiences, will continue.
3. **An opportunity to contribute in shaping the future of the country:** SCO's involvement in the development of educational landscape gives the church an opportunity to influence the future leaders of this country.
4. **An opportunity for involvement:** SCO offers an opportunity for significant ministry and service, in addition to giving, to those leaders or members of the church who wish to do so. This could be on a support structure level or direct ministry to students.
5. **Ministry into the lives of church leaders:** SCO can provide some direct input into the lives of leaders, by organising speakers, retreats, letters and resources – dealing with matters of relevance to their lives. SCO may in a small way make a contribution to minister to leaders
6. **National and International Interaction:** Through our link with IFES sometimes we can offer opportunities for exposure at various international conferences.
7. **Communication:** SCO will maintain regular communication with its partners. This will keep the partners informed of the developments in the student world and in student ministry in particular. This can be in the form of annual visits, newsletters, phone calls etc.

8. **An opportunity of membership to volunteer:** SCO offers a good environment for the church membership to volunteer. This can benefit the church in getting its members to be trained and exercise their gifts.

### **MODELS OF PARTNERSHIP – What can the local church offer SCO?**

1. The church can **pray** for us. SCO can be made a regular feature in prayer meetings or prayer calendars. SCO will commit itself of keeping the church informed of the praise and prayer items.
2. The church can **give to SCO**. There is a great need to cover all schools with the Gospel e.g. it costs SCO about R6000 to cover the full cost of a qualified field staff worker. So monthly contributions towards this cost make a significant difference.
3. The church can adopt one of our staff workers by praying for them, contributing towards their support and receive news from them
4. The church leadership can act as an advocate for SCO and **share** the vision with other church leaders
5. The church can open a platform for SCO to share its vision to the membership directly asking for their support.
6. The church can encourage and facilitate **volunteering** of church members to the work of SCO
7. The church can **send a “worker to the mission - field”** be seconding a worker to SCO.

## **OUR MISSION**

**“SCO seeks to serve Christ by developing opportunities for students in South Africa to be transformed by Him into being effective Christians for today’s world.”**

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. To share the love of Jesus Christ with students and lead them to a personal faith in God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, according to the Holy Bible
2. To nurture students into a deep, transforming relationship with God that will profoundly change the way they think, live and relate to others and to equip them for a life of service.
3. To urge students to commit themselves to the extension of God’s kingdom throughout the world by evangelistic witness, by responding with compassion to the needs of society, by working for peace, righteousness and justice.
4. To be involved actively in issues facing students in their respective institutions.

### **ARTICLE 3: STATEMENT OF FAITH**

3.1 We believe that: -

3.1.1 The Holy Bible (the Old and New Testaments) as originally given by God, are divinely inspired, entirely trustworthy and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

3.1.2 There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This sovereign God created the universe and pronounced it good.

3.1.3 Our Lord Jesus Christ is God visible in a body, born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless human life. During his earthly ministry he worked miracles and taught about the Kingdom of God. He died in our place to atone for our sin. He was buried, and on the third day arose from the dead. He ascended into heaven. He is the only Mediator between God and humankind and Saviour of the world.

3.1.4 Humankind, male and female, was created in the image of God, with consequent dignity, delegated authority and creation stewardship. As a result of the fall, all people are lost and sinful, subject to condemnation and in need of salvation.

3.1.5 Salvation is available only through the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ and his salvation are received by repentance and faith, not by human effort, as the Holy Spirit brings about the new birth.

3.1.6 The Holy Spirit convicts and draws sinners to Christ and imparts new life to them, indwelling, empowering and equipping each believer, who is thereby enabled to live a holy life, to witness, and to serve the Lord Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, evangelism, discipline, compassion, justice and righteousness.

3.1.7 All believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are spiritually united with each other. They comprise the Church, the Body of Christ, of which he is the Head.

3.1.8 The Lord Jesus Christ will return personally in power and authority. All the dead will be raised: those who are saved to eternal life and those who are lost to condemnation.

3.2 This Statement of Faith shall be signed and assented to without reservation by all members of Council, Committees constituted by Council, all staff members, volunteer staff and committee members of branches and members of branches.

## **OUR VALUES**

- ◆ Committed to the bible as the word of God with an evangelical statement of faith.
- ◆ Cultivating a deep spiritual vitality which is rooted in prayer and the word of God.
- ◆ Outward looking in evangelism, world mission and social concern
- ◆ Committed to engaging the social and political issues on our campuses in our country
- ◆ Empowering the student leadership and giving opportunities for this
- ◆ Embracing the ethnic diversity of our country
- ◆ A national partnership of Universities and colleges and committed to building international links with other student movements
- ◆ Committed to serving the local church
- ◆ Welcoming the diversity of denominational emphases
- ◆ Centered in relationships
- ◆ Engaging intellectual issues with Christ-centered worldview.