

# United & free

Alliance Churches World Wide



# Local churches – united and free

## The relations between local groups in New Testament Time

- The Apostles have a key role as leaders for local leaders.
- Paul has relations, meetings with the Apostles, and local groups.
- Correspondence by letters, passed around among local groups.
- Visits (by Paul but also by other leaders)
- Support – for ex. financially to the group in Jerusalem.
- This gives us a pattern – free local groups with local leadership but interacting with each other – accountability, transparency, responsibility and cooperation



# The organization in SAM

- Local group/church is free, with it's own leadership, economy etc
- They have applied to become members of SAM.
- They send delegates to the "SAM-conference" that elects a board for SAM, decides over budget, elect General Director and other big decisions.
- From the dicisions at the Conference the head office is formed and work to implement the ideas, decisions, visions etc. support to the local churches or things we want to do together within SAM.



# What can a local church expect from the head office?

- Coaching, advice, support and further education programs for pastors.
- Coaching, advice, support and further education for local church boards and leaders.
- Support and help if a conflict or other problems occur.
- Help and support with church developing programs in church growth, music etcetera.
- Help to get involved in church planting in Sweden.



# What can a local church expect from the head office?

- Help to get involved in international mission – the Great Commission.
- Through SAMs cooperation with other denominations they can have educated pastors.
- Help and support in financial and administration matters, insurance, pension systems etc.
- Through SAM they can have a voice in the National Christian Council of Sweden and in the public debate.
- Information about SAM:s work national and international!



# Support for Youth Ministry - SAU

- Kids, Music, Scout, Youth and young adults,
- Education programs for leaders
- Organizing camps (Youth, children, Scout camps etc)
- Organizing events (GF, T-centralen, Easter conference etc)



# What do we expect from the local churches?

- Responsibility and participation in common matters, delegations sent to the church conference.
- Financial support of head office, pastors education, international and national mission.
- Representation in the denomination board, different committees etc.



# The local church is the main thing!

- SAM central, the head office, have the goal of supporting our local churches to be the best they can be!
- And SAM central have a goal to make other important things happen, the things that are too big for a local church to do but still need to be done. Coordination of International mission, pastors education, support and advice etc...





# Questions for Table Talks:

- How do local churches in your denomination relate to each other? How can we get a good balance, at the same time "Free and United"?
- What kind of support from a central organization do you think a local church need and can benefit from?
- How can the National Leadership intervene to help a problematic situation at a local Church without causing animosity or considered to be interfering?
- What strategies can be used to help local Churches to be self-reliant?
- How best can Local Churches be motivated to participate in National programs especially in the area of financial support?

