

Greetings in the name of Yeshua our Messiah! Thank you for your inquiry concerning congregational UMJC membership. We are attaching a membership application for your congregation, as well as other materials, which may be helpful as you come to the decision to apply for membership.

The primary question that potential UMJC members ask seems to be “what benefit would it be for my congregation to join the UMJC?” The primary advantage is the *kesher* you develop with fellow congregational leaders and other member congregations. The Union includes over 80 member congregations, which represent a wide variety of Jewish observance as well as charismatic and non-charismatic expressions. As our name implies, our goal is to unite our members in fellowship and a greater Messianic vision. This connection also provides your congregation with a global perspective, since the UMJC is involved in the Messianic movement worldwide. As an affiliated congregation, you would be empowering the UMJC to act on your behalf around the world. As you may know, the Union is a delegate-governed organization. We do have an Executive Board and a Steering Committee, but the Union has always believed that the true power of our organization resides with our members. The Execs are empowered by the delegates from the congregations to carry out the vision of the Union.

We are currently involved in planting a congregation in Central Asia, as well as a number of new congregations throughout the U.S. We are involved in Israel and in supporting various Messianic works as well as believers in the Land. We are excited that God has recently opened doors for us to be involved in South America and Ethiopia as well.

The primary call of God on the Union is to help plant and nurture healthy Messianic Jewish Congregations. To fulfill this call, we offer leaders’ retreats as opportunities to learn together and from each other on vital areas, for both personal and congregational spiritual growth. We have also fostered the establishment of the Messianic Jewish Theological Institute to provide seminary training with a high standard of scholastic and spiritual excellence. It is our strong conviction that leaders who are well trained and spiritually nourished make better congregational leaders, and are able to feed the growing flock of the remnant of Israel.

Accountability is also one of the benefits of Union affiliation. Leaders become certified through the Union, and member congregations are “recommendable” when people call us for a congregation in their area. The UMJC is also available to our members for counsel and arbitration should a difficult and unresolved situation arise.

Since its inception in 1979, the Union has placed a strong emphasis on education and scholarship. Our Theology papers, books, tapes, *Kesher Journal*, Shabbat School curriculum and videos all provide a great resource for understanding our Jewish heritage and our faith in Yeshua. These materials are available to you whether or not you are a UMJC member. We are happy to help and encourage every Messianic congregation with any resource we have available. For the most current information and calendar of events, visit our website at [www.UMJC.org](http://www.UMJC.org).

We look forward to hearing from you again and hope you will become a part of the UMJC Family.

For Zion’s sake (Isaiah 62:1),

Rabbi Jamie Cowen  
President, UMJC