

**Insert:**

**[First Name**

**Last Name**

***Cohort Dates]***

Application Packet

**Name**



**G’Day!**

Thank you for your interest in participating in the Global Disciples Sydney, a Pioneers Discipleship Training Community. As you take this important step toward serving cross-culturally, know that we are praying for you. Although this packet may look daunting at first glance, please don’t be put off by that! The questions are simply designed to help us get to know you better…so you answer with no pressure from us. ☺

As you type in the boxes they will expand to fit your responses. If you are applying as a married couple, each partner will require a separate form.

Upon completion, please email to us at globaldisciplessydney@gmail.com and attach a recent high quality photograph of yourself or your family to your email. Cheers!

1. The Basics

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Surname** |  |
| **Given Name** |  |
| **Current City/Country** |  |
| **Mobile** |  | Do you use WhatsApp? | *Yes or No* |
| **Email** |  |
| **Date of Birth** |  |
| **Marital Status** |  | Spouse name:(if applicable) |  |

1. Children (if applicable)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Given Name(s)** | **Date of Birth** | **Plan to go with you? (Y/N)** |
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1. Church Details

**Current Church**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Church** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lead Pastor’s Name** |  |
| **Contact Number** |  | WhatsApp? |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Church Postal Address** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advocate @ Church \*** |  |
| **Contact Number** |  |
| **Email** |  |

\* This could be Pastor, missions contact person, a close friend, small group leader, etc.

**Sending Church** *(only complete this section if different to ‘Current Church’)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Church** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lead Pastor’s Name** |  |
| **Contact Number** |  | WhatsApp? |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Church Postal Address** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advocate @ Church \*** |  |
| **Contact Number** |  |
| **Email** |  |

\* This could be Pastor, missions contact person, a close friend, small group leader, etc.

1. Your Spiritual Journey

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| --- | --- |
| **Describe how you became a Christian and how your life has changed since knowing Christ.** |  |

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| **How do you maintain a dynamic relationship with the Lord each day?** |  |

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| **Have you read the entire Bible? If not, explain how you normally grow your breadth and depth of understanding God’s Word.** **If you haven’t yet, would you be willing to read the entire Bible before attending GDS? Explain what that would look like to see that happen.** |  |

1. Cross Cultural Service

**Vision**

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| **Describe your heart for ministry including your sense of God’s leading into cross-cultural ministry.** |  |

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| **What excites you most about being trained through Global Disciples Sydney? What do you think the scariest/most challenging part will be?** |  |

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| **How do you hope the Lord grows you as you participate in Global Disciples Sydney?**  |  |

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| **When do you see yourself serving cross-culturally?** |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Have you determined a people group or region you would like to serve amongst?** | **Yes:****I feel called to work amongst the following peoples... (explain)** |
| **No:****Not at this stage** |

**Gift / Skill Mix**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Please describe your current understanding of your gifting and your skills and how they might be used in cross-cultural service.** |  |

1. Education / Training

We are convinced we must all be lifelong learners if we are to serve the Lord well and minister fruitfully cross-culturally. Whether through informal or formal education, God has already been developing you to serve cross-culturally and we’d like to hear how!

**Formal and Non-Formal Education**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Place of Study****(School/University/Church, etc.)** | **Year Completed** | **Qualification Received(Degree/Certificate/Diploma)** |
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| **List any subjects studied or seminars you have attended in missiology/ministry – e.g. Cultural Studies, Theology of Mission, Church Planting, Personal Life of the Cross-Cultural worker, etc.** |  |

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| **In what areas do you feel you require further preparation or training with respect to the cross-cultural ministry?** |  |

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| **What ministry experiences have you been involved in to date, including (but not limited to) any positions of leadership?** |  |

1. Family

Understanding family support, helps us know how best to support you and remain sensitive to factors that may come into play in your future ministry.

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| --- | --- |
| **How do your parents/extended family feel about your plans to serve cross-culturally?** |  |

If you have children, please also answer the following questions where relevant:

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| --- | --- |
| **How does each of your children feel about your calling to cross-cultural service?**  |  |

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| **What educational options are you open to for your children’s time living in Western Sydney for the duration of the program? (public school, private school, home school? etc.)** |  |

1. References [*Only* fill this section if you are not a Pioneers International Member or Candidate]

Give contact details of at least **four** people who have a close knowledge of your home life and work for Christ, and who would be willing to answer questions about you. Reference requests will be emailed to each of your referees once we receive your completed application.

**Church reference - Current Church Leader** (this may be your Lead Pastor or a pastor within your church)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **City, Country** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Contact Number** |  | WhatsApp? |  |

**If your sending church is DIFFERENT to your current church, please include the lead pastor or pastor within your Sending church in this section**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **City, Country** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Contact Number** |  | WhatsApp? |  |

**Peer/Friend**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **City, Country** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Contact Number** |  |

**Business Associate or Employer** (If it is not appropriate for your current employer to know of your application, please disregard this section**).**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **City, Country** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Contact Number** |  |

**Mentor / Bible College Lecturer / Home Group Leader / Other**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **City, Country** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Contact Number** |  |

**Mentor / Bible College Lecturer / Home Group Leader / Other**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **City, Country** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Contact Number** |  |

1. Finances

Global Disciples Sydney seeks to be creative and flexible in how financial arrangements are made, so we want to do our best to communicate well in this area. As you likely have read, each cohort pools its funds and relies on participants raising support and God providing scholarships to meet each cohort’s needs. We also collaborate closely with the Pioneers Member whom you gave as a reference.

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| **It costs Global Disciples Sydney around $1,050/month to train each adult. This includes everything except airfare.** **It costs ½ the average daily wage of your country to attend GDS Lite.****What amount do you trust that God wants to raise through your prayer and efforts? How do you plan to raise this amount?** |  |

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| **Will you have any ongoing financial obligations while attending Global Disciples Sydney? (e.g. credit card debt, mortgage, education, personal loans, etc.)?** |  |

After we receive your application, we will speak with your Pioneers Member reference and then send you a GDS Funding Proposal with more details on your support raising responsibilities, where money will be sent, etc.

1. Further details

As you engage in Global Disciples Sydney, we have found that it is best for you and us to have thought through some of these further details (your answers are more for open communication and self-awareness than to qualify for the training!)

**Working with Children** [for in-person Cohorts only!]

We are committed to the protection of children from all forms of abuse and neglect. Pioneers of Australia has a zero-tolerance policy and therefore will not proceed with an application for anyone with a prior conviction, or history, of child sexual abuse or related offenses at any time during his or her life.

Pioneers has a Child Safety strategy which includes asking questions about your interaction with minors. Your referees will be asked questions and it is important to ask you the following questions.

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| **Have you worked with children in the past?** |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **If so, in what age range?** |  |

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| **Have you completed any child safety training? If so, can you give us details of the scope of the training?** |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Have there ever been any concerns or allegations that you harmed a child?** |  |

**General Health**

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| **How would you describe your physical health and fitness?** **Is there anything in your physical, mental, or emotional health that would impact your service? (e.g. anxiety, depression, phobias, past trauma etc.)** |  |

Pioneers is an evangelical community of cross-cultural workers. Within this community there are a range of beliefs on “secondary issues” not addressed in our Statement of Faith (see below). These are a couple of issues that we find can be tension points on teams if not approached with an ethos of humility and grace:

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| --- | --- |
| **What do you believe about the charismatic gifts of the Spirit in the Church today? (healing, speaking in tongues, etc.)** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What do you believe about women serving in official church leadership positions?** |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Would you be willing to serve with others who believe differently than you in these (and other) areas?** |  |

Pioneers Core Values

**PASSION FOR GOD**

Our passion is to glorify God throughout the nations of the world, through obedience to the Bible and by living and proclaiming the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. It is an act of worship to actively participate in some way in the Great Commission.

**UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS**

Some cultures in the world have no neighbours who can tell them about Jesus Christ. Our hope is to share God’s love with those people in places where the gospel is yet to be effectively proclaimed.

**WE WORK IN TEAMS**

We don’t do lone rangers. We accomplish our mission through God’s people mobilised from around the world. Our entire ethos and structure rests on the strength, growth, creativity, diversity and cohesiveness of our teams. Our teams are free to mobilise new workers, set strategic goals and determine their own terms of service, financial budgets, location and strategy.

**SERVANT LEADERSHIP**

We empower our members through a decentralised structure that emphasises team-based servant leadership and an interactive approach to decision-making, based on mutual trust and accountability.

**AN ETHOS OF GRACE**

International teams illustrate to the unreached that what we offer is Christ—not culture. We affirm that God's grace operates uniquely in the lives of all believers. In all our relationships we endeavour to cultivate an atmosphere of mutual acceptance and respect which encourages each of us to attain our full potential in Christ.

**CHURCH PLANTING MOVEMENTS**

We are committed to helping people know and follow Jesus. And to the process of empowering and equipping those believers to become disciple makers of others – bodies of believers that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, are intentional about planting other churches.

**LOCAL CHURCH PARTNERSHIP**

The mandate for mission has everything to do with the church. So our work today has everything to do with the local church, from the beginning of the sending process to church-based movements around the world.

**CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION**

The message of God’s love in Jesus Christ is timeless. And there are a thousand ways to make that message known. We encourage men and women to use their gifts, skills and personalities to communicate the gospel for the sake of precious people everywhere.

Pioneers Statement of Faith

Below is the Pioneers Statement of Faith. If you have any reservations concerning these doctrinal statements, or if you have any questions or comments you would like to make, please feel free to do so in the space provided on the following page.

* **WE BELIEVE** that the Holy Scriptures, consisting of Old and New Testaments, were originally given by God, divinely inspired, without error, infallible, and are entirely trustworthy and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and practice.
* **WE BELIEVE** in one God, Creator of all things, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
* **WE BELIEVE** in our Lord Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, his virgin birth, sinless life, divine miracles, vicarious and atoning death on the cross, bodily resurrection, ascension and exaltation, mediatorial work, and personal, imminent, and visible return in power and glory.
* **WE BELIEVE** that Adam and Eve, created in the image of God, were tempted by Satan, the god of this world, and fell; that their sin has passed to all people, who as a result are lost, are unable to save themselves from the wrath of God, and need to be saved.
* **WE BELIEVE** that salvation is a gift of God to those who repent and personally believe in Jesus Christ; that it is accomplished by God’s grace through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit.
* **WE BELIEVE** in God the Holy Spirit who indwells all believers enabling them to live holy lives, and to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ despite opposition from the world, the flesh, and Satan.
* **WE BELIEVE** in the spiritual unity of all true believers, the universal Church, the Body of Christ.
* **WE BELIEVE** in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of eternal life with God, they that are lost unto the resurrection of eternal condemnation separated from God.
* **WE BELIEVE** that Christ commanded the Church to go into all the world and make disciples of all peoples, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching those who believe to obey all that Christ commanded.

Guiding Grace Principles

Pioneers is an international fellowship comprised of evangelicals drawn from many different churches and backgrounds. Our desire is to work in harmony with our national church partners and Christian colleagues on the basis of essential doctrines as found in our Statement of Faith. These are doctrines on which, historically, there has been general agreement among all true followers of Christ.

In matters not addressed by our Statement of Faith, Pioneers acknowledges differing points of view provided they are based on the Bible as the supreme authority, and that no interpretation or practice will undermine the work of the gospel or the unity among those with whom we serve. We seek to live, work, and relate to one another in a spirit of love and humility, as outlined in Romans 14, 1 Corinthians 13, and other passages.

1. What next? [for in-person cohorts only!]

After we receive your application packet, we will follow up with your Pioneers Member reference. We will send you an invitation by email as soon as we can, with a GDS Funding Proposal, and information on obtaining a visa and plane tickets. **Do not buy plane tickets until you have received your visa.** ☺

Here’s what the process will likely look like:

1. Your comments or questions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Do you have any comments or questions?** |  |

I, [Insert your name here]

1. I have read and accepted the Pioneers Core Values and Statement of Faith.
2. I understand that Pioneers works in partnership with its members’ sending and supporting churches. Therefore, I also understand that Pioneers may be in communication with them, concerning my life, support and ministry and I authorise them to make such enquiries and collect such information. I agree that this is an acceptable cooperation.
3. To the best of my knowledge, all of the information in this application is true and complete.
4. I also authorise Global Disciples Sydney to make such inquiries of my referees as it considers necessary in processing my application and carries out its objects. To the fullest extent permissible at law I hereby release all members of Pioneers and Global Disciples Sydney; employers; schools; colleges; health and other professional practitioners/consultants; or other persons from any liability in responding to inquiries in connection with my application.
5. As required to complete my application to Global Disciples Sydney I give permission for duly authorised Pioneers staff and field leadership (including relevant Pioneers Team Leaders and Area Leaders) to access, communicate and use this and other personal and potentially “private” information.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name (digital signature) |  | Date |