



Questionnaire for applicants who need a Visa to attend a World Convention

It used to be relatively easy to get a visa to attend a World Convention. But when we held the World Convention in Australia in 2000, and even more so in England in 2004, we discovered that many people are now refused visas. Many others need a great deal of support and advocacy before they are successful in receiving their visas. We have prepared some documents to help you prepare for this process. One of these documents is this **personal and confidential questionnaire**. If it seems to be asking too many personal questions, and there are some facts you feel we do not need to know, that's OK. But we have learned that in almost every case, these are the kind of questions that the Visa Officers will want full and accurate answers to, and we believe they will help us to be strong advocates for you in support of your application.

Please read all of this very carefully before answering any of it. You cannot afford to make mistakes about anything, so take your time and then answer everything very carefully. There are some questions which may be difficult for you to answer such as your monthly income. That can be combined income of you and your spouse. Make sure you write the currency of your income - for example US \$, or Zimbabwe \$, or Pakistan Rupee. Make sure all your answers are **very clear and easy for us to read!**

The Visa Office of the host country will ask you for to provide a letter of invitation and support from the World Convention Office for you to present with your Visa application. If your application is incomplete or unsatisfactory from their point of view, it is most unlikely that you will be granted a visa. (This is especially true since the events of September 11 2001, and the great increase of illegal immigrants to countries such as America.)

We promise to keep the contents of your answers strictly confidential and private, and use them only to write a helpful letter of invitation to you, and advocate your case with the visa office if your application is not successful. But please answer all that apply to you. They will help us write the letter you need.

Please email or airmail your answers to our office as soon as possible:

Executive Director

Email: office@worldconvention.org

World Convention of Churches of Christ

PO Box 50998

Nashville, TN 37205-0998

USA

PASSPORT: If you do not have a current passport with at least 12 months left after the Convention, and before it expires, it is urgent that you get one now, because no visa will be granted without a passport without at least 6 months on it before you return home. You will need recent passport style photos of your head and shoulders. One photo should be sent on the copy you mail to us. (Two copies are to be attached to the form the Visa Office will require.) There will be a fee to pay for your passport which your own country will issue.

We strongly suggest that you keep a copy of everything you mail to our office, and everything you hand in with your visa application. Keep those documents safe where you can get them quickly if you need to send a further copy for some reason.

We look forward to hearing back from you as soon as possible so that we have time to prepare a suitable support letter of invitation to attend the World Convention, which you will send in with your visa application.

Questionnaire for applicants who need a Visa to attend a World Convention

1. Questions about you personally, and you personal circumstances

- what is your full name, as in your passport.
- what name do your friends use for you?
- what is your age?
- are you male or female?
- what is your personal home address, and telephone number? (Not just a Post Office Box number please)
- do you own or rent your home?

- what is your passport number?
- where was it issued?
- what nationality is it?
- when does it expire?

- are you married? or single?
- what is your wife's (or husband's) name?
- how many dependant children do you have?
- what are the names and ages of your children?

- do you work fulltime?
- what paid work do you have?
- how long have you held this job?
- how many paid hours do you work each week?
- where do you work? (say if you work at more than one job)
- what is your family's total MONTHLY income (in your country's currency)?

- do you own any property? (house, farm)
- do you own a business? what is the business?
- what other work have you had?

- what formal education have you had?
- when did you graduate?
- where did you study?
- what did you study?
- are you currently a student?
- where are you studying?
- what are you studying this year?

2. Questions about your travel history and plans:

- have you previously traveled outside your country? (state where you went, when you were there, and why you went)

3. Questions about attending this World Convention:

- have you ever attended a World Convention of Churches of Christ previously?
- when, and where?
- how will you travel to and from this Convention?
- who will pay for your ticket?
- who will pay for your accommodation at the Convention?
- what dates do you plan to arrive and leave?

- do you intend to do anything in the host country (where the Convention takes place) apart from attending the Convention? (State what you will do, where you will be, and for how long.)
- do you have family members living in the host country? How long have they lived there?
- What are their names?
- addresses?
- phone numbers?
- What relationship are they to you?

4. Questions about your church involvement:

- please tell us the names, addresses and phone numbers of some of the key leaders you know in the Restoration Movement churches in your country, so that if we have not met you personally, we have a way of verifying these answers.
- what is the full name of your local church?
- where does your church meet? (the actual address)
- who is the preacher for your local church?
- how long you have been a member of your church?
- what leadership roles do you have in your local church?
- how and when did you learn about the Restoration Movement/Churches of Christ?
- how and when did you learn about next year's fellowship gathering?

Don't forget to make photocopies of everything you send to the World Convention Office, and please attach a recent passport style photo. We pray that you will be granted a visa and be able to attend the Convention. We are really looking forward to having you at the World Convention!

Please email or airmail your answers to our office as soon as possible:

Executive Director
World Convention of Churches of Christ
PO Box 50998
Nashville, TN 37205-0998
USA

Email: office@worldconvention.org