

EXODUS ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP PACKET

Exodus International North America, Inc.

P.O. Box 540119

Orlando, FL 32854

407.599.6872

[www.exodusinternational.org](http://www.exodusinternational.org)

Dear Interested Leader,

Greetings from the Exodus International office! Thank you for your interest in becoming a part of the Exodus Association (EA). We are delighted to receive your application.

After 37 years of ministering to individuals and families impacted by same-sex attraction (SSA), Exodus recognizes the crucial need to work in concert with churches and local outreaches. Alan Chambers, President of Exodus International North America, Inc., often states, “Exodus is a Kingdom ministry—it is not a ministry outside of the Church, but a ministry of the Church.”

Through our Association we hope to do three things. One, we hope to exhort the church at-large to stand confidently, boldly and graciously on the truth of scripture with regard to homosexuality. Two, we hope to equip churches to minister to the individuals within their own congregation who are struggling with SSA, as well as the family members with a GLBT loved one. Thirdly, we hope to create a worldwide referral list, including your ministry, for people searching for a healthy community that will walk alongside them in their journey. For men and women seeking to surrender their sexuality to the Lordship of Christ, a pivotal part of healing and restoration is the need to be included in—and be a part of—the Body of Christ. One woman with SSA shared, “My experience of being welcomed, invited and embraced by the men, women, and families in my church made all the difference in the world as I sought to overcome my sexual brokenness and sin.”

Please find enclosed the initial Exodus Association paperwork. Included are Exodus’ Doctrinal positions and Organizational Statement concerning SSA, the Application Form, the Exodus Association Qualifications, and miscellaneous application information. Once you submit the application, it will be reviewed and, if all qualifications are met, your ministry will be listed as an Exodus Association referral on the Exodus website ([www.exodusinternational.org](http://www.exodusinternational.org)) and will be a part of our in-house referral reports.

If you have any questions regarding the Exodus Association, please do not hesitate to email or call me at ([rthomas@exodusinternational.org](mailto:rthomas@exodusinternational.org) , 407-599-6872).

Again, thank you for your interest in Exodus. We look forward to co-laboring with you in this endeavor and to impacting lives for Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Randy Thomas**  
**Executive Vice President**  
Exodus International North America, Inc.



## Letter to Pastors

Dear Potential EA Pastor,

Greetings from the Exodus International office! Thank you for your interest in becoming a part of the EXODUS ASSOCIATION. We would be delighted to receive your church as an applicant.

Your partnership with Exodus International is essential to our mission to mobilize the Body of Christ to minister grace and truth to a world impacted by homosexuality. **The EXODUS ASSOCIATION is a referral association of caring communities sharing a common cause.** These churches share a redemptive biblical worldview on the issue of sexuality and are committed to being safe places of worship for people with same-sex attractions (SSA).

For your convenience, we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions given to us by pastors. We hope this will be beneficial in your consideration of membership in the EXODUS ASSOCIATION.

### **What does it mean to be an EXODUS ASSOCIATION Church?**

If accepted, your church will appear on our international referral network listed on the Exodus International website. When someone who has been impacted by SSA (individual, family member, friend) calls the Orlando office looking for local support, we will provide them with the closest Exodus Association ministries, counselor, person, and/or Church, depending upon their specific request and need. They will be provided with the contact information you have provided for your church. If they choose, they will make contact with the contact person you have designated.

### **What is expected once a referral makes contact?**

Once a referral connects with your designated contact person, the contact person will be responsible for helping the referral become integrated in your church community. The contact person provides information such as service times, available ministries, counseling opportunities, small group opportunities, and fellowship events. We encourage the contact person to make a personal connection with the referral and help them to embrace the church community.

### **Is the contact person expected to provide counseling?**

No. This is not a requirement for the church contact person. However, we do encourage the contact person to provide ministry and prayer to those who are referred.

### **Are we expected to have a ministry that is specific to the issue of homosexuality?**

***No! Please don't let this hinder you from joining the association.*** We do not require nor do we expect your church to have a ministry that specifically addresses homosexuality. In fact, our primary concern is that your church is committed to **providing foundational discipleship** to people who are referred to your church. Many have found freedom from homosexual behavior by becoming part of life-giving churches committed to raising up mature disciples in Christ. If your church is accepted, you will serve alongside the closest Exodus Association ministries and counselors in your area. We recommend that you work in partnership with these ministries in providing ministerial care to referrals. In the event that a ministry and/or counselor are not within your area, there are online resources and phone counseling alternatives.

### **What is the Pastoral Contact Person?**

The pastoral contact person is responsible for providing oversight to the church contact person. In the event that the church contact person is no longer serving in this capacity or a part of your church community, the pastoral contact person is responsible for filling the church contact person position. The pastoral contact person simply serves as the direct representative of the pastoral staff and is contacted only by the Exodus staff and only when necessary.

### **Will the referral be told what to expect?**

Yes. We will make the referral aware of what they can expect from an EXODUS ASSOCIATION referral. A Referral FAQ sheet will be given to the referral and is provided in this packet.

### **How do I minister to someone with SSA?**

The same way you minister to the person dealing with anything. This is not meant to over-simplify; each struggle does have its unique challenges. However, God's grace and truth applies to all situations and His Word is "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

In addition, as part of your association with Exodus, we will provide discounted access to all of our books, resources, training materials, and conferences. These will be of great assistance in learning the nuances of ministry to people with SSA.

### **What are the benefits of joining?**

By becoming a member of the EXODUS ASSOCIATION, your church will be listed as a referral church on the Exodus website. You will also receive promotional materials, newsletters, and information regarding educational opportunities and resources. In addition, your church will be eligible for discounts when attending Exodus Freedom Conferences and a 10% discount when ordering resources from Exodus Books. These benefits and the opportunity to be connected with other ministries, counselors, and churches committed to supporting and serving people with SSA is what makes participation in the Exodus Association worthwhile.



## DOCTRINAL AND POLICY STATEMENTS

### ***DOCTRINAL STATEMENT***

- We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, the final authority for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in right living.
- We believe in one God, existing eternally in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, fully man and fully God, only-begotten Son of the Father. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and lived a sinless life. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, buried, and rose physically from the dead. He ascended to the right hand of the Father and will come again in power and glory.
- We believe that faith alone in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord frees us from the mastery of sin, and its consequences of eternal death. He assumed the penalty of death Himself, and enables us to live out of His resurrected life unto eternity.
- We believe the Holy Spirit carries out this work of renewal in our lives, empowering us to grow in loving union with our Heavenly Father and to walk in obedience to His will.
- We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is formed of all those who know Him as their Savior and Lord, regardless of denominational beliefs.

### ***ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT***

#### ***What Does Exodus Believe about Same-Sex Attractions?***

We believe that same-sex attractions are multi-causal meaning that there are multiple factors that lend to the development of this struggle. Many researchers, Christian and secular alike, have tried to boil the issue down to simple choice or genetics. We believe that both fail to convey the complexity of this issue and only serve to invalidate the people who are same-sex attracted.

While we have never met anyone who “chose” to feel same-sex attracted, people do have to eventually make a decision to either act on those feelings or not to act on them. Since 1976, Exodus has served as an organization helping men and women surrender their sexual struggles to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We do not believe that same-sex attractions are sinful in and of themselves but rather one type of struggle and temptation among the millions that impact each and every human being.

We do believe that any sexual expression outside of a monogamous marriage between one man and one woman falls outside of God’s creative intent for human sexual expression and is sinful. Homosexuality is no greater or less a sin than any other and is not the determining factor for a relationship with Jesus Christ.

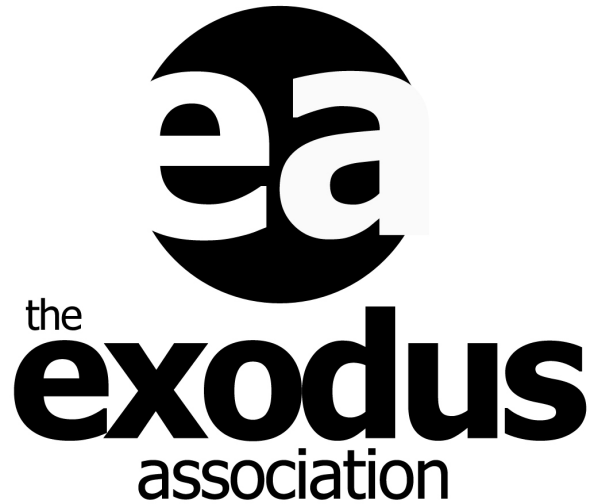


## EXODUS ASSOCIATION QUALIFICATIONS

The requirements for becoming and remaining a member in the EXODUS ASSOCIATION are as follows:

- The Exodus Associate, including its leadership personnel and church statements of faith, must be in agreement with the Exodus doctrinal and policy statements.
- The Exodus Associate contact person for this area of ministry must have a minimum of three years without immoral sexual behavior and meet Biblical standards of leadership.
- The Exodus Associate contact person for this area of ministry must be an active participant in the church, with ongoing personal and spiritual accountability at the church.
- The Exodus Associate must appoint a Pastoral Contact Person. This person is a member of the church pastoral team and is responsible for overseeing the church contact person. The pastoral contact will reassign the church contact person position if necessary. They will serve as the first point of contact if the church contact person position becomes vacant.
- The Exodus Associate must notify the EXODUS ASSOCIATION Director of any changes in either the pastoral contact person or the church contact person.
- The Exodus Associate must have some form of governing body in place (i.e. Board of Directors, Church Elders, Credentialing agency.)
- At least one representative overseeing this area of ministry within the Exodus Associate is highly encouraged to attend Exodus' International Conference at least once every three years.
- Once Exodus Association status is granted, an Exodus Associate must submit any updated information in a timely manner.
- EA Members agree with and utilize ministry and professional resources that are in agreement with Exodus International policy statements. Members also agree to consult with Exodus concerning potential ministerial affiliation with individuals and/or organizations that promote ministry approaches in conflict with Exodus policy statements. Ministries and counseling methodologies that are not congruent with Exodus standards include but are not limited to:
  - Holding/Touch Therapy
  - Bioenergetic Therapy
  - Aversion Therapy
  - Reparative Therapy/Conversion Therapy/Sexual Orientation Change Efforts

*Resources that are in agreement with Exodus mission and vision can be found at [www.exodusbooks.org](http://www.exodusbooks.org).*



## APPLICATION FOR “EXODUS ASSOCIATION” STATUS

Complete this form (*type* or *print* clearly) and mail it to the Exodus office, attention: *EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, RANDY THOMAS*

### 1) Associate Information and Contact Details (for publication)

Once your church becomes a member, all items in this section will appear in publicly distributed lists.

**Outreach Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Outreach (Church, Ministry, Counselor\_):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ministry Leader:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Denomination/Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>City:</b> _____	<b>State:</b> _____	<b>Zip:</b> _____
--------------------	---------------------	-------------------

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>City:</b> _____	<b>State:</b> _____	<b>Zip:</b> _____
--------------------	---------------------	-------------------

**Approximate Number of Members** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Ministry Phone:</b> (    ) _____	<b>Internet Address:</b> _____
<b>Contact Person Phone:</b> (    ) _____	<b>Contact Person Email Address:</b> _____
<b>Facebook:</b> _____	<b>Twitter:</b> _____

1) Is this outreach affiliated with an existing Exodus Associate?

Yes  No If yes, who? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2) Pastoral Contact Person Information (for private office use)

This information is about the designated pastoral contact at the church. This information in this section is only for office use and will not appear in publicly distributed lists.

**Pastoral Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

(      )

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 3) Contact Person Information (for private office use)

This information is about the primary Exodus Associate contact person. **Only the Contact Person's name will be included on the website and other publicly distributed lists.** All other information in this section is only for office use and will not appear in publicly distributed lists.

**Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

(      )

**Personal Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Facebook:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Twitter:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is this person on staff with this outreach?  
 Yes  No If so, in what capacity? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Is this person considered a counselor? If yes, please share the name of the credentialing agency. If the agency is their state of residence, please include their license number.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Has this person been free from all immoral sexual behavior and/or unhealthy emotional relationships for at least three years? Including:
  - A. Immoral Sexual Behavior: Any sexual behavior outside of the heterosexual marriage covenant, including, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, any regular or consistent viewing of pornography, compulsive (addictive) masturbation, phone sex, internet sex, etc.
  - B. Unhealthy Emotional Relationships: Any relationship characterized by emotional dependency, co-dependency, or any other way the contact person may seek to meet emotional needs at the expense of others.



Yes  No

4. Is this person an active participant in a church, with *ongoing personal and spiritual accountability at the church*?

Yes  No

Name of Spiritual/Personal Accountability Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email of Accountability Person: \_\_\_\_\_

5. At least one representative overseeing this area of ministry within the church is highly encouraged to attend the annual Exodus national conference at least once every three years. If a representative from your church has attended an Exodus conference within the past three years, please list the name of the church representative and the date of the conference attended.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date attended: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4) Beliefs

On a separate sheet of paper or in the space below, please provide brief answers to the following questions.

1. What does the term "born again" (John 3:3) mean to your church? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you believe that God can change the life of a man or woman with SSA? Please explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why does your church want to become part of the EXODUS ASSOCIATION? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Is the church in agreement with the Exodus Doctrinal and Policy Statements?

Yes  No

#### 5) Ministry Information

➤ **Specific Ministry Areas:** Does your outreach offer specific ministry to people with SSA or sexual struggles? If so, please describe:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

➤ **General Ministry Areas:** Please note below if your church has any of the following general ministry areas. These will be listed on the Exodus website as ministries of your church

Men's Ministries

Small Groups

Women's Ministries

Singles' Ministry

Bible Studies

Service Opportunities

Divorce Recovery

Mentoring Ministries

Other Recovery Ministries \_\_\_\_\_

If you offer other types of ministries that you would like us to list, please describe those below:

---

---

**6) Governing Body Information**

Understanding that each church may have their own staff/personnel structure; Exodus requires that the member church must have within their body, at least three members with authority to remove or change the representative of this ministry within the church if necessary. In the space below or on a separate sheet of paper, please provide a brief description of your church's governance structure.

---

---

---

**7) Verification**

I confirm that the information this church has given is true and correct. I authorize the Board of Exodus International or their designated representative to contact the church's Senior Pastor, governing body, or other spiritual authorities should they have any questions concerning this Application Form. I confirm that I have read and am in agreement with the Exodus Doctrinal and Policy Statements. I understand that once Church Association status is granted, the church must submit an Annual Renewal Form to ensure that the Exodus Office has current information for the church.

Contact's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Spiritual/Personal Accountability: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated Pastoral Staff Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail the following items to Exodus International:**

- Completed Application
- Separate sheets of additional information, if required
- \$50 administration fee (please consider making Exodus International a part of your church's annual budget)

**Mailing Address:**

**Exodus International North America, Inc.**  
Attention: Executive Vice President  
P.O. Box 540119  
Orlando, FL 32854

**Fax:**

407.599.0011



## Association FAQ's

### **What is an EXODUS ASSOCIATION Member?**

An EXODUS ASSOCIATION Member is part of a growing network of ministries, counselors and churches that have expressed a commitment to stand on the truth of Scripture with regard to sexuality and have a desire to minister to people in their congregations who are impacted by SSA. Association referrals agree that homosexual behavior is not in line with God's creative intent for sexual expression, and creative intent, for sexuality. They do not reject individuals with same-sex attractions, nor do they encourage people to accept an identity or set of behaviors based on sexual attraction. Instead, Exodus Association referrals are places where people are free to share their struggles and where anyone with SSA is welcomed into the fellowship of believers in the Church. EXODUS ASSOCIATION organizations need not have special support groups or ministries dealing specifically with SSA. All that is required of Association Members is that the church stands on the truth of Scripture and is willing to express love to people with SSA with grace and life-giving relationship.

### **What are the requirements to be a part of the EXODUS ASSOCIATION?**

EXODUS ASSOCIATION Applicants must complete an application with Exodus International and meet the following requirements:

1. The Exodus Associate must express agreement with Exodus' doctrinal and policy statements.
2. The Exodus Associate must designate a church contact person and a pastoral contact for this area of ministry, and that contact person and anyone else in the leadership of this ministry must be free from immoral sexual behavior for a minimum of three years.
  - a. Church Contact Person – this person serves as a liaison between Exodus and the EA church. They are responsible for assisting the referral to become familiar with their local churches, ministry, and opportunities.
  - b. Pastoral Contact – this person is a member of the church pastoral team and is responsible for overseeing the church contact person. The pastoral contact will reassign the contact person position if necessary. They will serve as the first point of contact should the contact person position become vacant.
3. The Exodus Associate must have a governing body in place.
4. Exodus strongly recommends that a representative of the Exodus Associate attend the annual Exodus International Freedom Conference at least once every three years.

### **What are the benefits of the EXODUS ASSOCIATION?**

1. EA Members will be listed as an EXODUS ASSOCIATION referral church on the Exodus website and promotional materials.

2. EA Members will receive Exodus promotional materials, newsletters, and information regarding educational opportunities and resources.
3. EA Members are eligible for a discount for Exodus Regional Conferences and Exodus International Freedom Conferences.
4. EA Members are eligible for a 10% discount when ordering resources from Exodus Books.
5. Association members are eligible to participate in Exodus councils or task forces.
6. Connection with existing Exodus Associates in your area
7. Periodic special equipping and training materials
8. Local mini-conferences and seminars (when made available)

### **Is being an EXODUS ASSOCIATION Member going to take a lot of time?**

All that is asked of EA referrals is that they designate a contact person for this area of ministry. The contact person will be the person with whom the Exodus office communicates, but will also be the name given to people who are referred to your church (although personal contact information will not be released). The contact person will be responsible for sharing information about the church with the referral and helping him or her to connect with the church.

We encourage Exodus Associates to find people within their ministries who have a heart for people with SSA (including individuals, friends and families). This can be a great opportunity for local church members to discover a special place to use their hearts and gifts.

### **We don't know much about homosexuality or how to help people with SSA. Can we still be a part of the EXODUS ASSOCIATION?**

YES! While specific ministries for people with SSA and Christian counselors specializing in sexual issues can and do play a great role in ministry, the local church has amazing relational potential within the basic community of believers assembled there. Exodus believes in the healing power that comes through the Body of Christ and is represented in the local church. We firmly believe people with SSA can find vital healing in simply being accepted and included in a Christian community.

In order to help the church better understand some of the issues surrounding SSA, and to help them better understand the needs of people with it, Exodus will provide EA referrals with many important resources, including but not limited to the following:

- A monthly letter containing important and pertinent information regarding SSA and ministry
- Lists of resources and highlights of new or updated resources
- Connection with existing Exodus Associates in your area
- Training workshops at the annual Exodus International Freedom Conference
- Periodic special equipping and training materials
- Local mini-conferences and seminars (when made available)

### **How can we know that we will be associated with reputable churches and ministries?**

The Exodus Association is comprised of ministries, ministers, counselors, and churches. The requirements for all Association referrals are explained in this document and every Exodus Associate must agree with Exodus' doctrinal and policy statements. Although we don't know all these associates personally, each application has been reviewed by our staff. We believe that these ministries, churches, and counselors will be counseling from a biblical perspective.

Exodus International strives to maintain the integrity, reputation and accountability of all Exodus Associate referrals. Do not ever hesitate to contact us with further questions or concerns.

### **Are there risks associated with affiliating with Exodus?**

Unfortunately, those who seek to affirm homosexuality sometimes attack those who hold to the redemptive view of sexuality as explained in scripture. While the risk is minute, it is possible that your outreach could receive hateful mail, email or publicity with regard to your affiliation with Exodus. It is our prayer that you will see the benefit of ministering to those affected by homosexuality as worth any of the possible risks of criticism. In addition, there are some within the church who hold to a far less gracious approach and they may criticize you, as well.

### **What is the difference between an Exodus Association Ministry and an Exodus Association Church?**

Exodus Associate ministries offer specific programs designed to serve people with SSA and to help families impacted by the sexual struggles of friends or family. These specific programs can include support groups and/or lay counseling for such specific areas as men and women with SSA, parents whose child who identifies as gay, spouses of people with SSA, people impacted by HIV/AIDS, pornography or sexual addiction, and other related areas. While some of these ministries operate under the covering of a church, most are para-church ministries. Many of the leaders of the Exodus Association ministries have a personal testimony in this area.

Exodus Association churches are simply churches deemed by Exodus to be safe and sound places for people with SSA or their families, to receive truth and grace as they deal with this issue in their lives, and as they surrender their sexuality to the Lordship of Christ.



## EA Referral FAQs

### **What can I expect from an EXODUS ASSOCIATION referral Church?**

EA Churches are committed to living the grace and truth of Christ. EA Churches are in agreement with Exodus Doctrinal and Policy Statements that promote a redemptive view of sexuality. They are caring communities sharing a common cause.

### **Will they have a support group, ministry, or counselor that ministers specifically to those people dealing with SSA?**

While most Exodus Associates do, they are not required to have a specific ministry or counselor that ministers only to the issue of same-sex attractions. The primary purpose of Exodus Associates is to provide loving communities committed to walk with the same-sex struggler in their journey and help those we refer grow in their relationship with Christ by providing foundational discipleship and authentic community. Many have found freedom and liberty by becoming part of life-giving churches committed to raising up mature disciples in Christ.

### **What can I expect from the Exodus Association contact person?**

The church contact person is responsible for providing you with the necessary information to become integrated within the local church community, helpful ministries, and local counselors as needed. They will provide you with information on service times, directions, available ministries, counseling, service opportunities, available small groups, and fellowship events. The church contact person is committed to provide initial ministry and prayer but does not necessarily provide ongoing counseling. He or she will assist in providing any available information regarding ministry specific to same-sex attractions.

### **What if the EA outreach that I'm referred to does not have ministry specific to my struggle with same-sex attraction?**

We can provide you with contact information for other local Exodus Association referrals to help meet the specific needs of the person seeking help. In the event that options are limited within your area, we can provide you with online support resources and/or phone counseling opportunities. Exodus believes in the complimentary partnership of a church, member ministry, and/or counselor in the process. Be committed to implement all available resources at your disposal rather than rely on just one.

# Resources

## **Online Ministry and Support**

[www.livehope.org](http://www.livehope.org) - An online support forum for teens dealing with same-sex attractions. This site is moderated and monitored 24/7.

## **Websites**

[www.exodusinternational.org](http://www.exodusinternational.org) - Main site for Exodus International.

[www.exodusfreedom.org](http://www.exodusfreedom.org) - Information and registration for Exodus Freedom Conferences, Pastor Training Events, Regional Conferences, etc.

[www.exodusbooks.org](http://www.exodusbooks.org) - Online bookstore of resources for the homosexual struggler, family, friends, and church leaders.