

Membership STEP 1

*"Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it."*

1 Corinthians 12:27



PLYMOUTH
ALLIANCE CHURCH

www.PlymouthAlliance.org

MEMBERSHIP STEP 1

Overview of our time together:

- Introductions, please plan to share:
 1. Your family composition if married or you have children.
 2. Where you live and work.
 3. How long you've been attending PAC and what brought you.
 4. A fun family vacation story.
- Overview of our Denomination
 1. Distinctives of the Alliance
 2. The Alliance Statement of Faith
 3. Mission of the Alliance
- Overview of Plymouth Alliance Church
 1. How to get involved at PAC
 2. Organizational Chart
 3. Next Steps to Becoming a Member
- Question and answer time
- Evaluation

THE CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

A.B. Simpson was a New York pastor from Canada who had a heart for the nations. Throughout the 1880s, he planted his own church (New York Gospel Tabernacle), wrote his own missionary magazine (known today as Alliance Life), and started the first Bible institute (known today as Nyack College). His church opened new branches in several cities across the country and sent out more and more missionaries across the world. Simpson's ministry became "The Christian and Missionary Alliance" in 1897, but it wasn't until the 1960s that the C&MA became an official denomination.

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) is the mission and heart of the C&MA. It is our primary call: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

We believe that the local church is God's instrument for bringing the message of Jesus to the whole earth. Because of that, we work to establish communities of Christ throughout the world that will multiply themselves, resulting in self-sustaining, evangelical churches within the reach of all people.

AT A GLANCE

- More than 500,000 believers worship in 37 languages in 2,000 US C&MA churches every week.
- Across the world, 6 million people gather in 30,000 Alliance churches and church groups.
- More than 700+ missionaries and workers minister in 70-plus countries planting churches and training national church leaders, providing relief and development assistance, medical and dental care, and microenterprise projects.
- Every year thousands of future church leaders are being equipped for ministry in 120 theological schools worldwide.

DISTINCTIVES OF THE ALLIANCE – THE FOUR-FOLD GOSPEL



JESUS CHRIST IS OUR SAVIOR

The Name of Jesus has impacted lives around the world for more than 2,000 years. He is a universal Savior, promising that: “whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Jesus is an exclusive Savior. “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name in heaven given to men by which we must be saved” Acts 4:12. Contrary to what contemporary culture tells us, there are not multiple paths to God. There is only one—Jesus Christ.



JESUS CHRIST IS OUR SANCTIFIER.

Many Christians understand God’s promise of salvation but do not experience the ongoing sanctifying work of Jesus Christ in their lives. For those who neither understand nor allow the Holy Spirit’s control in their lives, the results have a profound effect.

Unsuccessful struggle against sin and a lack of power in life and ministry frustrate those who have asked Jesus to be their Savior but not their Sanctifier, resulting in a lack of joy in their walk with Christ. “It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.” 1 Corinthians 1:30



JESUS CHRIST IS OUR HEALER.

A great portion of Christ’s time was dedicated to healing the sick. He healed all kinds of people: the blind, the paralyzed, the lame, the deaf, lepers, those who had fevers, and many with chronic illnesses.

We find no record in the gospels of Jesus turning away anyone who came to him for healing, nor do we find that any disease was too difficult for him to heal. He even raised the dead. Miraculous healings still occur today—evidence that Christ is still our Healer. “And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.” James 5:15



JESUS CHRIST IS OUR COMING KING.

The physical return of Jesus has been the subject of speculation and controversy since His ascension into the clouds, which is recorded in the New Testament Book of Acts. Knowing that countless millions still have not heard the gospel, The Alliance is committed to doing its part to complete Christ’s Great Commission before His imminent return. “This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1:11

THE ALLIANCE STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that certain truths are indispensable for genuine Christian life and witness. Among these truths are:

1. **There is one God, who is infinitely perfect, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.** (Deut. 6:4; Matthew 5:48; Matthew 28:19)
2. **Jesus Christ is true God and true man.** He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of His Majesty on high as our great High Priest. He will come again to establish His Kingdom of righteousness and peace. (Phil. 2:6-11; Luke 1:36-38; I Peter 3:18; Hebrews 2:9; Romans 5:9; Acts 2:23,24; Hebrews 8:1; Matthew 26:64)
3. **The Holy Spirit is a divine Person come to indwell, guide, teach, empower the believer, and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.** (John 14:15-18; John 16:13; Acts 1:8; John 16:7-11)
4. **The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men.** They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice. (2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Timothy 3:15,16)
5. **Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God; he fell through disobedience, incurring, thereby, physical and spiritual death.** All men are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The portion of the impenitent and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment; and that of the believer, in everlasting joy and bliss. (Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:23; I Corinthians 15:20-23; Revelation 21:8; Revelation 21:1-4)
6. **Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men; and those who repent and believe in Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, and become the children of God.** (Titus 3:4-7)
7. **It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly, being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service.** This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion. (I Thess. 5:23; Acts 1:8; Romans 6:1-14)
8. **Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body.** Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age. (Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:13-16)
9. **The Church consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit.** Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church, which has been commissioned by Him into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations. The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Ephesians 1:22,23; Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 2:41-47)
10. **There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life; for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment.** (I Corinthians 15:20-23; John 5:28,29)

11. **The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent and will be personal, visible and premillennial.** This is believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service. (Hebrews 10:37; Luke 21:27; Titus 2:11-14)

MISSION OF THE ALLIANCE: WHY WE EXIST

The Great Commission

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." —Jesus Christ's Great Commission is the Call of The Christian and Missionary Alliance—it's why we exist! We are compelled by Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations. Reaching the lost is a cause for which we are willing to go to the ends of the earth—this is no small task!

The Alliance is Living the Call Together

Living the Call Together, the Alliance slogan, describes what The Alliance is and does—a union of worldwide churches that are living out the preeminence of Jesus and fulfilling His Great Commission.

Following Jesus is not intended to be a solitary journey. As a family of believers, we uphold each other in the faith, bring comfort when needed, celebrate life together, and combine resources to accomplish God's work. We can do much more together than we can do apart. That is the challenge our founder, A. B. Simpson, gave to believers more than 100 years ago. And that is what has made The Alliance one of the most effective missions organizations the world has known. When it comes to sharing the reason for our hope, faith, and joy, we reach more people when we work together. Our partnership in building Christ's Church worldwide is getting the job done!

We hope you, too, will join the thousands of people who regularly participate in the worldwide work of Alliance Great Commission Ministries.

So what is it going to take?

We need to work together. Completing the Great Commission will require the mobilization of every fully devoted disciple of Jesus Christ. Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the Alliance family is committed to developing healthy people (fully devoted followers of Christ), who come together to build healthy churches (unified as the Body of Christ through the indwelling Holy Spirit) that produce a bountiful harvest (completing Christ's Great Commission).

Funding this work is no small task. It takes approximately \$40,000 annually to keep an individual worker on the field. Through the generous and sacrificial giving of people like you, workers are sent to fulfill this calling of Jesus in all the earth. Find out more about the current status of the Great Commission Fund by going to www.cmalliance.org

Where we go

We go wherever darkness has a foothold. Today, there are more than 2,000 Alliance churches in the United States, and approximately 30,000 fellowships in 70+ countries around the world with nearly 6 million Christians calling themselves "Alliance."

In 2011 alone, our Envision Trips sent up to 1,800 people on short-term outreaches; 85 individuals went on a four-week or more assignment somewhere in this world—all to be points of light.

ADDITIONAL READING on the Christian and Missionary Alliance:

- About our Statement of Faith
- About the History of the Christian and Missionary Alliance
- Alliance Policy on Divorce and Remarriage

(These documents are found at <http://www.plymouthalliance.org/files--forms.html>)

PLYMOUTH ALLIANCE CHURCH

PAC began as a Bible study spawned from Southside Alliance Church in Sheboygan. The group grew quickly, and, renting the Sheboygan County Fairgrounds cafeteria, we began holding our first worship services in 1982 under the leadership of church-planting pastor Daryl Jacobsen.

In 1983 we formally organized as a church of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. In 1985, having outgrown our space in the cafeteria, we purchased our current property and built our current building, holding our first service in the new building in 1986.

PAC continued to grow and a building expansion took place about 1990. We continue to pursue God's direction for His church. Our mission is to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ, carrying out the Great Commission and the Great Commandment to the best of our ability.

LEAD PASTORS OF PAC

- Dave Manske 1982 – 1987
- John Kitchen 1987 – 2001
- Bob Brannon 2003 – 2013
- Gary Burdick 2013 – Present

THE FOCUS OF PLYMOUTH ALLIANCE

- We are a solid partner in the Alliance Mission and Vision.
- We are committed to Missions, assisting in the support of seven teams around the world.
- Understanding the time pressures that people live with we seek to “Do less, invite more.”
- We encourage members to regularly attend our Sunday morning services, join a small group and serve the church or our ministries in some way.
- Ministries: Parkview Elementary School Partnership, ROOTED Kids Ministry, Youth Ministry, Small Groups, Missions, Outdoor Family Ministry, Worship team, welcome teams and so much more.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- The easiest way to get involved at PAC is to let us know how we can plug you in! **MyPAC is our online community and directory** that serves to connect us with one another and the ministries of PAC. Complete a profile on MyPAC telling us of your interests, talents and background. To login to MyPAC go to: <http://www.plymouthalliance.org/mypac-login.html>
- Choose a spot to serve. If that spot does not work, we'll help find a different one. Check out our “Serve Opportunities” page on our website. Give something a try!
- Small groups – we strongly encourage you to get involved in a small group. To discover the latest information on our groups check out <http://www.plymouthalliance.org/adult-small-groups.html>

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Please see attached chart.

NEXT STEPS TO BECOME A MEMBER

- If you are interested in becoming a member please sign up for 'Membership Step 2' today or send Pastor Gary an email to let him know. Gary@PlymouthAlliance.org
- Complete the assigned reading preparing for the Membership Step 2 class.
- Attend 'Membership Step 2' Class: Our next Step 2 class will be held:_____
- Agree to our doctrine and briefly share your testimony with our Elders.

QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME

PLYMOUTH ALLIANCE CHURCH

Membership Step 1 Evaluation

We really want to make these times helpful to those who attend. Your feedback will help us learn how to do so. Please rank each of the below topics. Additional comments are appreciated.

[For each item circle a number 1 to 5 and your time preference for that item's time allotment: 1 = not helpful--cut this, 2 = somewhat helpful, 3 = pretty helpful, 4 = helpful, 5 = very helpful. MT = more time or AR = about right or LT = less time.]

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| 1. Introductions | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | MT | AR | LT |
| 2. Overview of the Denomination | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | MT | AR | LT |
| 3. Alliance Distinctives and Statement of Faith | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | MT | AR | LT |
| 4. Overview of PAC – who we are | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | MT | AR | LT |
| 5. How to get involved at PAC | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | MT | AR | LT |
| 6. Next steps explanation | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | MT | AR | LT |

Comments: