

Membership STEP 2

*"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

ABOUT MEMBERSHIP AT PAC

INTRODUCTION

This document is for anyone curious about PAC, attending PAC, or considering becoming a member at PAC.

All of the documents listed below are found at: <http://www.plymouthalliance.org/files--forms.html>

REQUIRED READING

In addition to this document, **please read our bylaws and familiarize yourself with our organizational chart and read the book, I Am A Church Member** (we can provide you with a copy). The bylaws will help you understand our organizational structure in the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA) and what items are voted on by the congregation and by the board. You will also become familiar with the responsibilities of our elders and other leaders.

OPTIONAL READING

1. About our Statement of Faith (an explanation about each point of our 11 statements).
2. About The History of The Christian and Missionary Alliance – gives you the cool background story to the start of our Denomination.
3. Alliance Policy on Divorce and Remarriage
4. Uniform Policy on Discipline Restoration and Appeal – the full Policy.
5. Peacemaking Principles Pamphlet – A VERY helpful guide to biblical peacemaking.

OVERVIEW AND PROCESS

- **Before Membership Step 2 Class:**
 - Read this document making note of any questions you'd like to ask.
 - Read the "Bylaws of Plymouth Alliance Church".
 - Take a look at the "Organizational Chart of PAC".
 - Read I Am A Church Member by Thom Rainier (we can provide a copy).
 - Read as much of the optional reading as you'd like.
 - Write down any questions you have about all of the above and plan to ask them in our time together.
- **At the Class (60 to 90 minutes):**
 - Introductions, please plan to share:
 1. Introduce yourself and your family / children.
 2. When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Why? Or, what is a favorite sport to watch or play?
 3. Tell us briefly about your church background.
 - a. We will go over some highlights of our Statement of Faith.
 - b. We will briefly explain how we are connected to the C&MA.
 - c. We will spend the rest of the large group time answering any questions you have.
 - d. Those who are here for information purposes only are then dismissed.

2. After the Class (approximately 1 hour):

- a. Those interested in becoming a member should sign the membership application and turn it in to one of the Elders.
- b. If you are available the Elders are free to meet with you right now in groups of 4 – 6 people to conduct a brief interview.
- c. If you would rather have a separate appointment with a couple of elders feel free to sign up for an appointment, and then you are free to go.

WHY MEMBERSHIP?

We live in a country that values a representative form of government. Similarly, the Christian and Missionary Alliance has a representative form of government. Our members vote to guide the local church, the District, and the Denomination. Every believer is already part of the church as organism (the Spiritual Body of Christ), but only by becoming a member do we officially *join* the church and receive the benefit of voting to guide her.

Community (n)

A group of people who have voluntarily joined together to encourage and support one another as we worship God, grow in our understanding of His love for us, and seek to tell others about salvation and peace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Becoming a member also enables me to voice my commitment to the community of faith, the local church. Think about joining something as simple as a bowling team. In joining the team, you become a part of that community. They expect you to show up. They expect you to do your best. They expect you to pay the league fees and the cost of bowling. When you join, you voice and demonstrate your commitment to the bowling community.

Similarly, when you join a local church, you demonstrate your commitment to the church community. You voice that you fully intend to be regularly and faithfully involved. You determine to do your best to see the church thrive. You make the decision to sacrifice your time, talent, and treasure for the advance of the community. Thus, you demonstrate your desire to honor Christ and His great sacrifice for the Church – His bride. Membership demonstrates a commitment to the community, which is a mutually beneficial act. Hebrews 13:17 says “Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.” One of the ways we demonstrate our belief in God is by willing submission. The Bible instructs the church to appoint elders to oversee the church. Faithfully following them can be demonstrated by becoming a member.

Thus, we encourage you to expressly embrace membership and join Plymouth Alliance Church by reading the necessary materials, attending our membership class, and participating in an interview with our Elders. You express your desire to do so by signing the Application for Church Membership at the end of this document. If you are reading this material and attending our membership class but are not yet prepared to become a member, we hope you and your family will continue to worship with us, enjoy fellowship in a small group, and call on our leaders if you need counsel and support. If you choose to continue relating to us in any of these ways without becoming a member, we assume you have consented to our beliefs, which will guide our relationship with you. We will continue to love you and shepherd you to become a fully devoted follower of Christ.

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)

An expanded explanation of each of our statements of faith is found at:
<http://www.plymouthalliance.org/files--forms.html>

For more information on Alliance perspectives on issues such as sanctity of life, divorce and remarriage, women in ministry, human sexuality, and more, check out
smalliance.org/about/beliefs/perspectives.

Plymouth Alliance Church MISSION & VALUES

Our mission is to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

WE VALUE THE FULFILLMENT OF THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

We want to obey the Great Commandment by loving God with all that we have, and by taking that love to our neighbors across the street and around the world.

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:36-40)

WE VALUE THE COMPLETION OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

We want to complete the Great Commission by proclaiming the gospel to people at home and around the world.

“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.” (Matthew 28: 19-20)

STRUCTURE OF THE ALLIANCE

GENERAL COUNCIL – is the highest governing body of the C&MA, meeting biannually. It elects officers, transacts business, enacts policies, and evaluates the progress of denominational ministries. Delegates include licensed workers (i.e., clergy), members of the board of directors, three representatives from each C&MA postsecondary educational institution, two lay delegates from each accredited church (with additional delegates for every 100 church members), national officers of men’s and women’s ministries, lay members of district executive committees, and retired and disabled missionaries and official workers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the C&MA is comprised of 28 members and elected by General Council. It provides general oversight and management of the denomination and acts as the executive committee of the General Council when the council is not in session. National officers (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer) are ex officio members.

DISTRICTS – We are part of the Western Great Lakes District. Similar to the National level a District’s highest governing body is “District Conference”, which is a legislative body meeting once a year. The Conference elects the District Executive Committee and a Superintendent, the Chief Officer of the District. The ordination and licensing of clergy is the responsibility of Districts. Churches are organized into either geographical or cultural districts.

LOCAL CHURCH – The local church is governed by a ‘hybrid’ form of Congregational and Presbyterian form of government. The Congregation elects 2 Nominating Committee members, the Elders (who make up the Governing Board) and vote for a budget and capital expenditures. The Lead Pastor is called by the Governing Board in consultation with the District Superintendent.

LEAD PASTOR – Is the Chairman of the Board, the Nominating committee and chairs all congregational meetings unless he should choose otherwise.

PASTORS AND OTHER STAFF – Hired and overseen by the Lead Pastor.

Introduction to the POLICY ON DISCIPLINE & RESTORATION

PAC is committed to building a “culture of peace” that reflects God’s peace and the power of the gospel of Christ in our lives. As we stand in the light of the cross, we realize that bitterness, unforgiveness and broken relationships are not appropriate for the people whom God has reconciled to himself through the sacrifice of his only Son (John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:29-32; Col. 3:12-14).

Therefore, we look to the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit for guidance on how we can respond to conflict in a way that will honor God, promote justice, reconcile relationships, and preserve our witness for Christ. As God gives us his wisdom and grace, we are committed to actively teaching and encouraging one another in peacemaking, reconciliation, and discipline. The Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA) believes the Scriptures establish standards of conduct and belief by which members of a C&MA church and individuals serving Christ through licensed ministry within the C&MA must live.

The Goals of Discipline

1. To honor God
2. To protect the purity of the Church
3. To guard other Christians from being tempted, misled, divided, or otherwise harmed
4. To bring fallen Christians to repentance

Discipline is administered to achieve restoration, while also providing for the spiritual welfare of the local church. Discipline is to be corrective and redemptive. It is to be exercised with mercy, grace, and forgiveness. However, restoration to fellowship with Christ and His Church does not necessarily result in a return to a position of leadership in the local church.

The Uniform Policy on Discipline, Restoration, and Appeal (Policy) and the disciplinary proceedings are ecclesiastical in nature, founded on the most sacred teachings of the Christian faith. The Policy and proceedings seek to apply Scriptural teachings concerning conduct and belief to persons holding positions of authority and leadership within the C&MA and to regulate the relationships between persons in the Christian Church. In addition, they seek to regulate the behavior and belief of members of C&MA churches who, by their membership, have submitted to the authority and discipline of the church. Unless otherwise provided for in the Policy, in a case of disagreement or dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Policy, the jurisdiction to decide such matters lies solely with the C&MA National Office. As stated before, the Policy and its proceedings, including any decisions related to its interpretation or application, are ecclesiastical in nature and as such, any appeal to or other action before a court or civil tribunal is not permitted.

The Policy is not intended to create a legally enforceable contract or promise. The Board of Directors of the C&MA reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify the Policy at any time and for any reason.

Matters that give rise to discipline include but are not limited to:

1. Holding to and/or promulgating doctrines contrary to the fundamental tenets of the

Christian faith as outlined in the C&MA Statement of Faith.

2. Defiance or failure to submit to constituted authority as defined by the Board of Directors of the C&MA.
3. Moral failure involving sexual misconduct including abuse of a child or vulnerable adult.
4. Moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct.
5. Theft, misappropriation of funds or property, and other financial transgressions.
6. Dishonesty, fraud, perjury, and other misrepresentations.
7. Spreading false rumors about another.
8. Causing dissension or division within the church.
9. Violence or abuse directed toward others, especially a child or vulnerable adult.
10. Interference in the current ministry of a church by a former pastor or former member provided the former member is an active member of another Alliance church.
11. Judgment of guilty by a civil or criminal court of law, excluding minor traffic violations.

Becoming a member of PAC means we officially declare our agreement to biblical conduct, including willing submission to the biblical guidelines for restoration through discipline. Everyone who puts their faith in Christ is called to submit to those in authority over them. The Uniform Policy on Discipline gives us guidance as to how to conduct those biblical instructions.

This introduction to the Policy, therefore, is not meant to replace the Policy. Rather, it is presented to give members of Alliance Churches an overview of the Policy.

Additionally, PAC encourages all our participants to become well versed in navigating conflict in a godly biblical way. One very helpful tool to learn how to deal with conflict in a Christ honoring way is the *Peacemaking Principles Pamphlet*.

For the complete *Uniform Policy on Discipline, Restoration, and Appeal* and the *Peacemaking Principles Pamphlet*, head to <http://www.plymouthalliance.org/files--forms.html>

WHAT'S NEXT?

Participate in our ministries, join a small group, and volunteer to serve.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

One very strategic way to continue to grow PAC is through continuing to grow in the grace of giving. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 says "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Small Group Leader
- Mentoring
- ROOTED Kids Ministry (nursery–5th grade)
- Youth Ministries (6th–12th grade)
- Worship Team (musicians & vocalists)
- Production Team (projection, sound, lighting)
- Hospitality Team (ushers, greeters, coffee crew, food crew, welcome team, follow-up team)
- Facility Team (handymen/women, landscaping)
- Parkview Elementary Partnership (many ways to serve)
- Missions Team
- Outdoor Family Ministry
- MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)
- Community Gardens
- Safety Team
- Missions Team

Look at the Service Opportunities pamphlet for more specific ways to serve.

SMALL GROUP & DISCIPLESHIP GROUP PARTICIPATION

We strongly encourage you to get involved in a small group of some sort. We have a lot of options, please check them out at: <http://www.plymouthalliance.org/adult-small-groups.html>

MyPAC

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. Filling out your MyPAC profile with your picture and contact information helps us get to know you better, and filling out your passions and abilities helps us get you connected to the area you'd be most excited about.

MyPAC: If you are not tech savvy, please fill this form out. (Return to the office)

Name:

Birthday:

Address:

Email:

City, State:

Current Grade in school if applicable:

Contact Phone:

Cell Phone:

MY FIT

Spiritual Gifts (if known please list)

Passions (circle all that apply)

Discipleship

Education

Environment

Evangelism

Hospitality/Welcoming

Kids

Missions

Outdoor Recreation

Outreach

Poor & Marginalized

Prayer

Young Adults

Youth/Students

Abilities (circle all that apply)

Administration

Architecture

Art

Athletics

Audio/Sound

Auto Mechanics

Cleaning

Construction

Cooking

Counseling/Psychiatry

Crafts

Data Entry

Drama

Electricity

Event Planning

Finances

Gardening

Graphic Design

Interior Design/Painting

IT

Landscaping/Yard Work

Maintenance

Music

Photography

Plumbing

Sermon Research

Setup/teardown

Sorting/Organizing

Teaching/Instruction

Transportation/Running Errands

Videography

Visitation

Visual/Projection

Writing/Editing

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. I am committed to live, by depending upon God's empowering work of the Spirit of God, the Mission and Values of Plymouth Alliance Church (PAC). Yes No
2. I am committed to grow in my walk with Christ, to be regular and faithful in personal Bible reading, prayer and in guiding my family to pursue Christ. Yes No
3. I am in full support and agreement with the Statement of Faith of the Christian & Missionary Alliance. Yes No
4. I have read and understand the Bylaws of PAC and I have become familiar with the Organizational chart so I understand our ministry oversight structure. Yes No
5. I am committed to strive for the advancement of the church by faithfully attending worship services, serving in the church and reaching out to the community. I will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the expenses of the church.
 Yes No
6. I am in agreement with the PAC statement on church discipline. Yes No
7. I am prepared to share my testimony of saving faith with the Elders. Yes No
8. Please list any ideas you have to help improve the ministry of PAC or this membership process.

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____