

AFFIRMING PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
INTERNATIONAL

APCIM

A Formal Introduction



The Leadership (Ecclesia) of our fellowship is happy to greet you in the matchless name of our Lord Jesus Christ and welcome your inquiry about what God is doing with the Affirming Pentecostal Church International.

In accord with the tenor of our faith, we have resolved to never conform to secular tactics that recruit members; but we have "sanctified the Lord Jesus Christ in our hearts and are ready at all times to give answer to all who enquire about the hope that lies within and among us." (I Peter 3:15)

As believers, summoned by destiny, we celebrate our rich heritage among many Spirit-Filled traditions that have been historically divided by dogmas and doctrines that our generation has submitted to critical analysis to the end that we will maintain the "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3) Our diverse fellowship is not only the largest of its kind; but it is established to equip and encourage ministry leaders to effectively "do the work of ministry: perfecting the saints and edifying the Body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12).

Our leadership team is composed of people who find joy in serving with humility and integrity. Please, let us know how we may serve God in/with you.

In Christ,

The APCI General Board

A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

On Sunday December 5th, 2010 an assembly of 20 ministers representing 2 churches gathered to pray and seek the will of the Lord. Knowing that a clear voice from heaven was heard, the Affirming Pentecostal Church International (APCI) was established in Indianapolis, Indiana and has since evolved to include Spiri-Filled believers from all denominational heritages and traditions throughout the world.

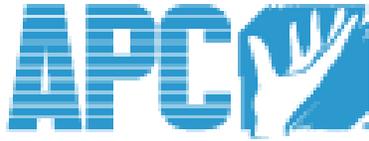
DEMOGRAPHIC STATE OF THE UNION

As of July 2017, APCI was blessed to report a constituency of 136 churches/ministries and 177 credentialed ministers in 27 countries throughout the world.

Our leadership consists of one Apostolic General, duly-consecrated Bishops, appointed geographic Overseers, International Directors, and Auxiliary Leaders.

The Lord continues to add to our church as more and more people seek out affirming Spirit-Filled fellowship that will neither condemn the humanity that God created or compromise the standard of Holiness that God ordained and expects of Kingdom citizens.

WELCOME HOME!!!



THE VISION

**The APCI vision is
to restore and reconcile humanity to
Christ through Agape love and the power of the Holy Spirit.**

THE MISSION

**The APCI mission is
to live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ
with people around the world
who have been spiritually abused and marginalized
by the misrepresentation of God's Love for all.**

OUR BASIS OF UNION

As a diverse collective, we understand that the context of our varying cultures and calls may cause us to differ from that of Brothers and Sisters among us; however these faith tenets are common convictions throughout the APCI and should be embraced by all who seek connection with us prior to the submission of an application for membership.

- **WE BELIEVE that the historical Jesus of Nazareth was both fully human and fully divine. HE, alone, is the fullness of the Godhead manifested in the flesh: one Lord, one faith, one baptism. Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, had a miraculous ministry, died on the cross for the sins of all people, rose from the dead, and will come again to claim HIS Church as HIS own.**
- **WE BELIEVE that the Bible is divinely inspired of GOD and written by men of old as the Holy Ghost moved them. No contention is made for a perfect translation, and care should be given to understanding God's Word as it is revealed by God's Spirit in context.**
- **WE BELIEVE that humanity inherited a sinful nature from the fall of Adam and that every person is in need of a Savior. Redemption is a gift of**

God's grace purchased by the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and is available through faith in HIM. Our faith in Christ Jesus leads us to repent from sin, water baptism by full immersion and the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and other manifestations of the Holy Ghost in the Church.

- **WE BELIEVE that those who respond in faith to the Word of God make up the Church of Jesus Christ and that every believer should seek to mature and excel in the fruit and Gifts of the Holy Ghost to the edification of the Body of Christ as prescribed in the Holy Bible.**
- **WE BELIEVE that gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation are irrelevant to eternal salvation. In Christ, there is neither male nor female and God is no respecter of persons. That to God all are equal and we condemn inequality in ANY form.**

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- 1. Spiritual covering and mutual accountability with open-and-affirming Spirit-Filled believers**
- 2. Legitimate credentials with the largest Spirit-Filled affirming church movement**
- 3. Ecclesiastical belongingness with multi-cultural worship and world-wide ministry exposure**
- 4. Ministerial training and mentorship through online annual course study, General Conference participation and the opportunity for a fully accredited degree study program.**
- 5. Fellowship opportunities throughout the world**
- 6. Autonomous affiliation options**
- 7. Professional networking opportunities and resources**
- 8. Community support with growth opportunities**
- 9. Access to leadership services**
- 10. Community engagement and information**
- 11. Quarterly group SKYPE chat session with our Presiding Bishop to share vision and engage in Kingdom Planning.**

MEMBERSHIP PROTOCOL

- 1. Complete and submit the ACPI Application with consent for background check.**
- 2. Submit the \$50.00 administrative processing fee.**
- 3. Submit the Letter or Form of Recommendation.**
- 4. Report and/or be accountable to the APCI General Conference via registration and credentialing dues.**
- 5. Complete the APCI Orientation, as evidenced by a signed APCI Covenant Agreement and Membership Certificate issued from the Office of our Associate Bishop.**
- 6. Participate prayerfully and financially in our world missions support programs.**

GENERAL OFFICERS

Presiding Bishop	-	Bishop Erik Swope-Wise
Associate Bishop	-	Bishop Alfredo Pena
General Secretary/Treasurer	-	Pastor Kelsey Swope-Wise
Overseer General	-	Bishop Jabowa Whitehead

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE

IMC Chairman	-	
Caribbean/Latin America	-	Pastor Marcos Guadalupe-Birriel
East Africa / Kenya	-	Bishop Elijah Odhiambo Ngwena
South Africa / Zimbabwe	-	Pastor Master Maxwell
West Africa / Ghana	-	Apostle EA Collins
South Asia / India	-	Pastor Ngamkholal Haokip

MINISTERIAL ADMISSION/ MATRICULATION

APCI currently offers six options of admission and matriculation for saints who choose to submit an application for our consideration:

- **General Membership** is open for saints of like faith who may or may not have access to a local APCI congregation in their geographic area.
- **The Christian Worker's License** is for lay ministers who are not called to the vocation of the five-fold ministry gifts outlined in Ephesians 4:11. This license is reserved for Auxiliary Ministers who would not likely seek to admission in the pulpit Ministry of ordination.
- **The Local Minister's License** is for the newly-called minister, who submits to the tutelage of a local credentialed APCI Elder. Ministers-In-Training
- **The General Minister's License** is for Licensed Ministers who are part of the APCI General Membership until such time as they are ready for the greater responsibilities of ordination. This level allows holder the rights to perform marriages, funeral, baptisms and serve sacraments.
- **Presbytery Ordination** is reserved for seasoned, mature ministers who operate in the vocation of the five-fold ministry and who can be trusted to lead, serve, and edify the Body of Christ. Ordination also allows then to hold official office within the body of APCI
- **Episcopal Consecration (Bishopric)** is reserved for mature elders who can be trusted to lead, serve, and equip the Household of Faith; they are pastors of pastors, leaders of leaders, and servants to the entire Body of Christ. This is made by appropriate designation only.

APCI licensures are in the jurisdiction of local and regional APCI officers and should follow the prescriptions of the context and culture in which they are served.

If a congregation of believers seek to connect with APCI as a chartered APCI church, then the Regional Overseer and/or Territorial Superintendent will facilitate that connection in concord with the prescriptions outlined in the Official By-laws and Manual of the Affirming Pentecostal Church International.

General Licensing and Presbytery Ordinations, as well as Episcopal Consecrations, are in the jurisdiction of the APCI General Board and should follow the prescriptions outlined in the Official By-laws and Manual of the Affirming Pentecostal Church International.

CONCLUSION

As you have taken time to prayerfully read through this Introductory Packet, our prayer is that the Holy Spirit has illumined you about your appropriate placement and work in the Kingdom vineyard.

If your divine placement is not with us, we bid you God's peace as you discern and discover your fit in the Body of Christ. If you are so inclined to pursue an APCI connection, then we look forward to serving and growing with you to produce maximum glory for God and the full fruition of effective ministry in the context in which you serve.

If you have further questions or concerns, the Geographic Leader of your specific region/territory is happy to help you discern the Will of God for you and APCI. That connection and contact information is listed below:

**May the Lord bless you,
and may Heaven smile upon you is our prayer!**

~Affirming Pentecostal Church International, Inc.

APCI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: ____/____/____

Applying for (*please check appropriate box*):

____ General Membership

____ Christian Worker

____ Local Licensure

____ General Licensure

____ Presbytery Ordination

____ Episcopal Consecration

PERSONAL PROFILE:

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Gender (*please check the most appropriate box*):

____ Male

____ Female

____ Trans-Female

____ Trans-Male

____ Intersex

Relationship Status (*please check appropriate box*):

____ Single

____ Married

____ Partnered

____ Boy/Girlfriend

____ Separated

____ Divorced

____ Widowed

If you have a partner/spouse please describe his/her support of your ministry:

Sexual Orientation (*please check appropriate box*):

_____ Homosexual _____ Heterosexual _____ Bisexual
_____ Asexual _____ Prefer not to say

Are you considered 'out' with your sexual orientation? _____

Do you have mental health or chemical-dependency issues? _____

If so, please explain: _____

Describe your personality: _____

MINISTERIAL PROFILE:

Date of Water Baptism _____

Date of Spirit Baptism _____

In what capacity are you presently serving the Body of Christ? _____

How long have you actively served in your present ministerial capacity?

Have you been properly ordained in the Lord's Church? _____

Do you currently hold credential with another Christian ministry, Association or Denomination? _____ If so, please provide the name and contact information of the ministry through which you are credentialed?

Describe your denominational background/heritage: _____

Describe your current relationship with God: _____

Describe your beliefs on gender and orientation in regards to salvation: _____

(Please use additional sheets of paper as you deem necessary.)

EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

High School: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Did you Graduate?: _____
DATE DATE

College: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Did you Graduate?: _____
DATE DATE

Degree: _____ Major: _____

College: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Did you Graduate?: _____
DATE DATE

Degree: _____ Major: _____

College: _____

From: _____ To: _____ Did you Graduate?: _____
DATE DATE

Degree: _____ Major: _____

(Please use additional sheets of paper as you deem necessary.)

OTHER INTERESTS AND/OR CERTIFICATIONS

PERSONAL REFERENCES

Please provide an APCI reference and a community reference that we may contact to affirm your Christian character:

APCI Reference: _____

Contact Information: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Community Reference: _____

Contact Information: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

FRATERNAL AGREEMENTS

Do you agree to cooperate and be accountable to APCI with regards to your moral and ethical behaviors as outlined in the Holy Scriptures in the context of our Spirit-Filled faith tradition? _____

Do you agree to cooperate and/or be accountable to APCI with regards to your participation, registration, and other support mechanisms of our fellowship events? _____

Do you agree and understand that each networking and/or associating minister with APCI is autonomous in ministry in all areas apart from the mutual agreements, accountability, rights and privileges between APCI and associating minister? _____

SIGNATURE

By affixing my signature to this application I hereby apply for membership and/or ministerial credentials with APCI. The information that I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and my signature authorizes APCI to conduct an Official Background Check on me, the applicant.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please submit the following items to the appropriate APCI officer:

_____ Completed Application

_____ A Recent Photograph

_____ \$50 Processing Fee (made payable to Affirming Pentecostal Church Int'l)

_____ Background Check Agreement Form

_____ Pre-Licensing Educational fulfillment

Office Use Only:

File Items

Dates Received/Completed

_____ Completed Application

_____ Photo

_____ Licensing Fee

_____ Background Check Agreement

_____ Pre-Licensing Educational Fulfillment

Comments: