

**AFFIRMING PENTECOSTAL CHURCH**  
**INTERNATIONAL**



*A Formal Introduction*

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**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 Pentecostal 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 in the integrity of holiness. 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 Pentecostal believers from all denominational heritages and traditions throughout the world.**

## **DEMOGRAPHIC STATE OF THE UNION**

**As of December 2016, APCI was blessed to report a constituency of 126 churches/ministries and 157 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 Pentecostal 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 OFFICIAL CREST**

A symbol/crest/logo is a representation of basic elements that communicates the sentiment of many who choose to gather, submit, and/or cooperate as one unit.

**APC** (with the letters “sliced” and stacked) represents the diverse and individual elements that make up the APCI: all different and unique, designed and assembled by the Holy Spirit of God to create an effective corporate body in the earth.

**THE HAND** (open and raised) symbolizes the full operation of the ministry gifts in Ephesians 4:11-16: each having its individual purpose, design and function, but working harmoniously to "edify, equip, and encourage the Body of Christ until we all come into the unity of the faith..."

**THE COLOR BLUE** speaks to the eternal presence of Jehovah as well as the priestly tradition of the Lord's Church.

## **THE VISION**

The APCI vision is  
to restore and reconcile  
the Church of Jesus Christ  
through the power of the Holy Ghost.

## **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 alone. Our faith in Christ Jesus leads us to repent from sin, water baptism by full immersion, conformity to a sanctified life 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 with the principles of holiness.

## **MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

1. **Spiritual covering and mutual accountability with open-and-affirming Pentecostal believers**
2. **Legitimate credentials with the largest Pentecostal affirming church movement**
3. **Ecclesiastical belongingness with multi-cultural worship and world-wide ministry exposure**
4. **Ministerial trainings and mentorship**
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 \$35.00 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 assessment.**

**5. Complete the APCI Orientation, as evidenced by a signed APCI Covenant Agreement and Membership Certificate issued from the Office of our Associate Bishop.**

### **GENERAL OFFICERS**

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

### **INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

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



## **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 should not 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.
- **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.
- **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.

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:**

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**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:

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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**

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**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 Pentecostal 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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Processing Fee (made payable to Affirming Pentecostal Church Int'l)

\_\_\_\_\_ Background Check Agreement Form

\*\*\*\*\*

**Office Use Only:**

**File Items**

**Dates Received**

\_\_\_\_\_ Completed Application

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Photo

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Licensing Fee

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Background Check Agreement

\_\_\_\_\_

Comments: