

STEPS

TOWARD ACCREDITATION WITH THE ALLIANCE

Accreditation is a very important step in your path toward serving with The Alliance. Whether you are wanting to serve in the U.S. or as an International Clergy Worker, the accreditation process helps prepare you for ministry with mentoring and training. Throughout this process, you will work directly with someone who will help you gain a thorough understanding of your theological beliefs as well as an understanding of Alliance doctrine. Accreditation is the act of being officially recognized by The Christian & Missionary Alliance as qualified to serve in Alliance ministry and makes a way for you to become hired at a church and licensed by our district offices.

Complete the Next Steps form on Called2serve.org

This form gives us a good overview of who you are, a brief testimony, and your ministry goals so we can better guide you on the best "next steps."

Receive a Character Reference from your Pastor

Our office will contact your current pastor (or another pastor who knows you well) and request that they complete a character reference for you. The references gives us a foundation to start the conversation toward ministry as, many times, your pastor knows you better than we do and can give guidance on your strengths.

Connect with an Alliance Representative

You will be assigned a representative that will meet with you to learn more about your ministry goals and set up a timeline toward ministry. When you are ready, they will set up your application and will be available to answer questions and guide you through the process. This person may be a Campus Representative at your school, or a staff member at a district or the Alliance National Office.

Begin the Accreditation Application for Ministry

When you have completed the initial steps, an application will be created for you. To begin the application, your representative will walk you through the steps to create an account on our website and access the application created specifically for you. The application includes: personal information, education and employment history, biographical inventory, doctrinal questionnaire, statement of faith, four more character references (in addition to the pastoral reference previously received) and a 50 question Bible Knowledge Exam. Because of the extent of the application, it does take some time to complete and this application will be used as the foundation to prepare for your official interview.

Preparation for your Accreditation Interview

After your application is complete, your representative will work with you to prepare you for the interview. Typically, this preparation includes include teaching, videos and study guides on the doctrinal questionnaire, Core Characteristics of an Alliance Worker and The Alliance Statement of Faith as well as further mentoring sessions or a mock interview that could cover a variety of topics related to your future ministry.



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT
OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

Fulfill the Requirements for Accreditation

Each person desiring accreditation in The Alliance is deemed eligible by fulfilling the following criteria:

- Ability to articulate a divine call to serve God in vocational Christian ministry
- A minimum of 30 credit hours of Bible, theology, and ministry study from an Alliance college or theological seminary, or from another fully accredited graduate or undergraduate institution; this academic requirement may be fulfilled through alternative study programs provided by Alliance Church Ministries
- Alignment, agreement, and demonstration of the Alliance Core Characteristics:
 - Kingdom-Minded - *being invested in the local and global church community for the sake of demonstrating God's eternal and coming kingdom.*
 - Biblically Grounded - *engaged in the process of learning, understanding, and applying truth and information through the lens of a biblical worldview in order to gain a greater leadership effectiveness*
 - Spirit Dependent - *engaged in the process of being conformed to the image of Christ through the power of and absolute dependency on the Holy Spirit for the sake of others.*
 - Competently Skilled - *has and is constantly developing a holistic set of skills that will catalyze a lifetime of leadership.*
 - Self-Aware - *regularly seeking to grow in the understanding of self, their motivations, the impact of their past, and their natural abilities and liabilities in order to display a God-honoring life and engage in God-honoring ministry.*
 - Self-Disciplined - *displays Kingdom-oriented rhythms which lead to greater Kingdom awareness, receptivity, and productivity.*
- Understanding of and commitment to the Alliance mission, vision, Core Values, and distinctives; this includes a willingness to submit to constituted authority as defined by the C&MA Board of Directors.
- Compliance with the intent of the official Statements of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, adopted by the C&MA Board of Directors
- Participation in the worldwide work of The Alliance by contributing financially to the support of Alliance ministries

Participate in an Accreditation Interview

Finally, you are ready for your official accreditation interview! The 2-3 hour interview will be focused on discovering, celebrating, affirming, and challenging you in the core characteristics of an Alliance worker: Kingdom-Minded, Biblically Grounded, Spirit Dependent, Competently Skilled, Self-Aware and Self-Disciplined. We will uphold the Alliance standards of credentialing as found in Section E-3 of *The C&MA Manual* while confirming and recommending the next steps in your leadership development. The interview will include 3-4 pastors, district members or National Office Staff.

Begin Searching for Ministry Placement Opportunities

Once you are accredited, begin searching for placement anywhere in the U.S. You can search and apply for available positions on our website: Called2serve.org and our Facebook group: The Alliance U.S. Job Openings as well as connect with district leadership. Your info will also be passed on to our district offices and our International Placement office as you search, but you will be responsible to apply for positions you are interested in. If your goal is overseas, the International Placement Office will walk you through the steps to beginning your Alliance Licensed Ministry Experience and other steps to apply for overseas positions.

