

# Discovering Hope

## Table of Contents



### Section 1: Discovering Who We Are

Our Affiliation	1.1
Our History	1.2
Our Values	1.3
Our Mission	1.4
Our Organization	1.5

### Section 2: Discovering What We Believe

Alliance Distinctives	2.1
Essential Doctrine	2.2

### Section 3: Discovering What Membership Is All About

Commitment to Jesus Christ	3.1
Commitment to His Mission	3.2
Commitment to His People	3.3
Hope Church Membership	3.4

### Section 4: Discovering Where You Fit In

The Heart of a Servant	4.1
The Church as a Body	4.2
Where You Fit Into the Body	4.3
Time and Talent Form	

### Section 5: Discovering Where You Go From Here

Action Plans	5.1
Membership Application Forms	

# Hope Church: Our Affiliation

The Christian & Missionary Alliance (C&MA)

[www.cmalliance.org](http://www.cmalliance.org)

## A. History of the C&MA

- ◆ Mid-1800s...revival, missions, holiness movements
- ◆ Albert B. Simpson – Presbyterian minister
- ◆ New York church rejects 100 Italian converts
- ◆ A.B. Simpson begins NY Tabernacle in 1882
- ◆ Dr. Simpson begins Christian Alliance and Missionary Alliance in 1887
- ◆ The two “alliances” merge in 1897
- ◆ Numerous ministries are started:
  1. Missionary Training Institute - now Nyack College
  2. Publishing house - now Christian Publications
  3. Orphanage
  4. Two rescue missions
- ◆ Alliance of churches becomes a denomination in 1965
- ◆ Headquarters moved from New York to Colorado Springs, CO

## B. National Church Ministries

- ◆ 2000 churches in USA; start approximately 50 churches a year
- ◆ \$36 million annual budget (Great Commission Fund)
- ◆ Hold worship services in over 20 languages in the USA
- ◆ 31,000 professions of faith in Christ is reported annually
- ◆ United States is divided into 22 geographic districts and 6 intercultural districts
- ◆ Our district: Northwestern District (includes MN and the eastern half of ND and SD)
- ◆ There are 97 churches in our district

## C. International Ministries

- ◆ Commission about 70 missionaries a year; 1,000 missionaries serving worldwide
- ◆ Ministries in over 81 countries
- ◆ Nearly 18,000 churches and preaching points globally
- ◆ C&MA is the largest denomination in 10 countries of the world
- ◆ 120 full term theological schools
- ◆ 365 radio broadcasts in 40 different languages
- ◆ 180,000 commitments to Christ each year and over 73,000 baptisms
- ◆ 3 million in total membership
- ◆ 300,000 patients in 4 hospitals and numerous clinics

## D. Other Information

- ◆ Operate 4 colleges and 1 seminary in the USA with 5,500 students
- ◆ Own 4 retirement centers
- ◆ Denominational magazine “A-Life”
- ◆ Orchid Foundation - investment and planning organization

# Hope Church: Our History

Hope church had its beginning as Apple Valley Alliance Church in 1972, when Rev. Paul Radford and Lloyd Edwards, from the Alliance church in Cottage Grove began Bible studies in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Siirila. This family had been driving 25 miles to attend church in Cottage Grove and asked about the possibility of beginning an Alliance Church in Apple Valley. Consequently, Lloyd Edwards and Dr. Brent Williams, at the time a teen, conducted a door-to-door visitation blitz and a bus route was begun to take adults and children to the church in Cottage Grove. It soon became apparent that several families were interested in starting a new church in Apple Valley.

The first Sunday of June 1973, the Apple Valley Alliance Church held it's first service at Diamond Path Elementary School with 38 people in attendance. Midweek services were held at the Siirila home. In August, Lloyd Edwards became the first pastor and students from Crown College came to help in Christian Education ministries.

During the summer of 1973, Pastor Edwards providentially gave a ride to a hitchhiker whose name was Matt Kuntscher, from Apple Valley. Their conversation led to the beginning of a "coffee-house" ministry in the garage located behind the parsonage, which was at that time on Co. Rd. 42. The group grew to nearly 100 young people. Many were delivered from addictions and gave their lives to Jesus. As a direct result of that phase of the church's ministry, 19 people enrolled in Crown College in the falls of 1975 and 1976.

Over the years there have been several pastors, including John Eagan, Vivien Laird, Bill Baach, David Hustad, Dr. Fred Polding, and Bill Kuhn. In January of 2008, Mark Opseth was called to serve as Senior Pastor. Gabe Norton was called to the position of Associate Pastor in July of 2004.

The first worship center, which is our present classroom/fellowship hall area, was completed in 1982. The present worship center was built in 1992, using the wooden CMA logo from our previous worship center as the basis for the round window, which beautifies our sanctuary. In the mid to late 1990's the Christian Education facilities were renovated as well as the parking lot being extended. In 2006 we completed an addition that includes new bathrooms, classrooms, nursery, kitchen and half gym.

Apple Valley Alliance Church became Colonial Alliance Church in 1991, and was changed to Hope Church in 1998.

In 2007, Hope Church began providing space for a group to hold a Spanish worship service. In January of 2008, the Spanish worship service and outreach to the Hispanic community was brought under the authority and direction of the staff and elders, making it an official ministry of Hope Church.

Also in 2007, Hope Church entered into a sister church relationship with the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church of Chepen, Peru. Having already sent two teams to Peru, our desire is to send a mission team to Chepen every other year to help build up their church and encourage our Peruvian brothers and sisters in Christ.

# Hope Church: Our Values

In our desire to please God, we will:

## 1. Promote the supremacy and sufficiency of God

God's supremacy will be our loudest message. The message of God's supremacy confronts a self-centered world. It is the glory of God that animates the universe and is the culmination of our life and eternity. God is the answer to man's deepest longings and need. But, rather than wallow in our sin-prompted need, we choose to celebrate God's all-sufficiency and splendor. Psalm 145; Colossians 1:15-18; Eph. 1:10, 20-23.

## 2. Proclaim the truth of God's Word

God's Word will be the anchor to our ministry. It will be the centerpiece of the classroom, boardroom, and pulpit. It will govern our lives, message, and methods of ministry. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119.

## 3. Pray without ceasing

Prayer will not be an addendum to our ministry, but a central element to the life of Hope Church. We will seek to be a "house of prayer for all the nations." Mark 11:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

## 4. Pursue righteousness

The call to godly living is for every follower of Christ. It is normal for the Christian to grow in knowledge and godliness. The call is for a life separated from sin and dedicated to God. This is both an internal and external reality for the Christian – a pursuit of holiness in word, thought, and deed. We seek to be people hungry and thirsty for righteousness and growing in the fruit of the Spirit. 1 Peter 1:13-16; Matthew 5:6; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:3.

## 5. Provide personal ministry care to individuals

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and its members are His body. Christians are intimately charged to care and support one another. Hope Church will seek to actively fulfill the "one another's" of the New Testament. Acts 20:28; Galatians 5:13-14; 6:1-3; Romans 12:9-21.

## 6. Prepare God's people for works of service

A core mission of the church is to be a training center for Christian growth and ministry development. As each Christian is gifted by the Holy Spirit, and utilizes that gift, the Body of Christ is built up. Hope Church will equip people to effectively use their unique gifts to impact eternity. Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Romans 12:3-8.

## 7. Permeate our community with the hope of Christ

Christ's charge to His followers is to be "salt" and "light" witnesses to the world. It is the Christians, armed with the good news of Christ, who bear the hope for our sin-sick world. The mandate to "go into all the world" will motivate Hope Church toward innovative means to saturate the world with the hope found only in Christ Jesus. Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:20.

# Hope Church: Our Mission

The Mission of Hope Church is lodged in the closing words of Jesus to His disciples:

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘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.’” Matthew 28:18-20

## The Purpose of Missions

The verb in this passage gives us the purpose of the mission: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Parameters of Missions

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Power of Missions

“But you will receive power when the \_\_\_\_\_ comes on you” Acts 1:8

## The Path of Missions

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

The Lord will send us out as witnesses to:

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jerusalem         | Hometown Missions      |
| 2. Judea and Samaria | National Missions      |
| 3. Ends of the earth | International Missions |

## The Passion of Missions

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14

# Hope Church: Our Organization

## A. Organizational Structure

1. The voting membership is the highest governing authority in the local church
2. Elders serve to shepherd the church and oversee ministry
3. Five ministry areas oversee ministry programming:
  - a. Worship and Music
  - b. Missions and Outreach
  - c. Adult Ministries
  - d. Youth Ministries
  - e. Children's Ministries

## B. Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor	Mark Opseth	mark.opseth@hopechurchcma.org
Associate Pastor	Gabe Norton	gabe.norton@hopechurchcma.org

## B. Current Elders

Administrative Elders: Jason Goudy (chair), Steve Anderson, John Hemmingson, Owen Scholta, Pastor Mark Opseth

Teaching Elders: Mike Benjamin (chair), LeRoy Dugan, Alfonso Hernandez, Dave Lloyd, Tom Schmelzer, Harold Schuster, Pastor Mark Opseth

## D. Ministry Leaders

Adult Ministries	Pastor Mark Opseth
Interwoven Women	Patti Hemmingson
Men of Hope	John Daum
Prayer Ministry	Pastor Gabe Norton
Benevolence	Mary Rohr
Building and Grounds	Wyatt Koskela
Children's Ministries	Howard and Melissa Hein
Nursery	Michelle Opseth
Sunday School	Matt and Sarah Rice
Awana	Howard and Melissa Hein
Custodial	Rhonda Benjamin
Hispanic Ministry	Alfonso Hernandez
Hispanic Intern	Gabby Gutierrez
Job Transitions	Dale Owens
Missions and Outreach	Dave Lloyd
Amnion Pregnancy Center	Stacy Ashley
Chepen Sister Church	Dave and Sue Lloyd
Rapid Response Team	Scott Rohr
St. Stephen's & Visit with Vets	Scott and Mary Rohr
Treasurer	Mishelle Toavs
Treasurer (Assistant)	Charlie Steaderman
Worship and Music	Ben Lumpkin
Youth Ministries	Pastor Gabe Norton

Hope office: 952-431-6500

Website: [www.hopechurchcma.org](http://www.hopechurchcma.org)

# Alliance Distinctives



## The Cross: Christ our Savior

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to man by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). We believe Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures . . . that we are redeemed through His precious blood, justified by His death and Resurrection, made righteous through His righteousness, and accepted in His name.

## The Laver: Christ our Sanctifier

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness” (2 Peter 1:3). Holiness is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself—so dwelling

in our hearts and so walking in our steps that we shall live like Him. This can never be in a sense that will minister to our own pride or self-sufficiency, for before we can receive it, we must come to the end of ourselves and never become self-sufficient apart from Christ. Such holiness means living a life of simple dependence, moment by moment, on Christ alone.

Note: The laver symbol represents a vessel used in the temple of the Old Testament. The priest used it to wash his feet before entering the Holy Place. It signifies the daily cleansing from sin by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## The Pitcher: Christ our Healer

“And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up” (James 5:15). The Lord Jesus has purchased and provided for His believing and obedient children physical strength, life, and healing as freely as the spiritual blessings of the gospel. He took up our infirmities as well as our sins, and from His risen life and living touch, our faith may draw health and strength until our life work is done.

Note: This symbol represents a pitcher containing oil to anoint the sick for healing that comes through obedience to God's Word.

## The Crown: Christ our Coming King

“You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven” (Mark 14:62). The Lord Jesus is coming personally to this earth again. It is not a mere spiritual coming, either at death or in a deeper experience of the Holy Spirit, or in the spread of the gospel throughout the world; but it is the coming of the Lord Himself as literally and personally as when He went away.

## The Globe: Completing Christ's Commission

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14). The globe adds a new dimension to the long-familiar official logo of the C&MA. The four Christ-centered symbols speak of God's gift of love to all peoples of every generation. They represent what Christ gives of Himself to His people so that He may present them to the Father without fault and with great joy. Now we give because He gave. The globe represents our mission in the world. “Freely you have received, freely give,” the Lord urged His followers as He sent them to spread the Good News throughout the land. That appeal from His heart to ours will continue until the gospel, through the efforts of His Church, has reached all peoples, and He comes again.

# Alliance Distinctives

## Baptism

1. Baptism followed repentance and faith in New Testament times (Acts 2:38-41).
2. We're commissioned by Jesus to go, baptize and teach (Matthew 28:19-20).
3. Alliance churches follow the same practice of baptism subsequent to conversion to Christ. Those who have repented of sin and put their faith in Jesus Christ for eternal life are encouraged to take this step of obedience.
4. Baptism symbolizes the believer's union with Christ (Romans 6:3-4).
5. The Bible word for "baptize" means to immerse or saturate; C&MA churches practice baptism by immersion.
6. Though the Bible does not state a minimum age at which a person may be baptized, an individual believer should be old enough to understand the significance of baptism.
7. Baptism is not required to receive God's salvation. However, all who have trusted Christ for salvation are encouraged to follow him in baptism as a step of obedience.
8. Persons who were baptized as believers before affiliating with an Alliance church do not need to be rebaptized.

# Essential Doctrine

## God

There is one God,(1) who is infinitely perfect,(2) existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.(3) ([1] Deuteronomy 6:4, [2] Matthew 5:48, [3] Matthew 28:19)

## Jesus

Jesus Christ is the true God and the true man.(4) He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.(5) He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust,(6) as a substitutionary sacrifice,(7) and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.(8) He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures.(9) He is now at the right hand of Majesty on high as our great High Priest.(10) He will come again to establish His kingdom, righteousness and peace. (11) ([4] Philippians 2:6–11, [5] Luke 1:34–38, [6] I Peter 3:18, [7] Hebrews 2:9, [8] Romans 5:9, [9] Acts 2:23–24, [10] Hebrews 8:1, [11] Matthew 26:64)

## Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a divine person,(12) sent to dwell, guide, teach, empower the believer,(13) and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.(14) ([12] John 14:15–18, [13] John 16:13, Acts 1:8, [14] John 16:7–11)

## Bible

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.(15) ([15] 2 Peter 1:20–21, 2 Timothy 3:15–16)

## Mankind

Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God:(16) he fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature,(17) are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.(18) The portion of the unrepentant and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment;(19) and that of the believer, in everlasting joy and bliss.(20) ([16] Genesis 1:27, [17] Romans 3:23, [18] 1 Corinthians 15:20–23, [19] Revelation 21:8, [20] Revelation 21:1–4)

## Salvation

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.(21) ([21] Titus 3:4–7)

## Sanctification

It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly,(22) being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service. (23) This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion.(24) ([22] 1 Thessalonians 5:23, [23] Acts 1:8, [24] Romans 6:1–14)

# Essential Doctrine (continued)

## The Church

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, (27) which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations.(28) 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.(29) ([27] (Ephesians 1:22–23, [28] Matthew 28:19–20, [29] Acts 2:41–47)

## Mankind's Destiny

There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life;(30) for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment.(31) ([30] 1 Corinthians 15:20–23, [31] John 5:28–29)

## Second Coming of Christ

The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent (32) and will be personal, visible, and premillennial.(33) This is the believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service.(34) ([32] Hebrews 10:37, [33] Luke 21:27, [34] Titus 2:11–14)

Discovering What Membership is All About

# Commitment to Jesus Christ

Colossians 1:15-18 "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy."

**Write out your testimony. When did you receive Christ? What were the circumstances that led to you being born again? What were some of the things God delivered you from? What fruit is God producing in and through you?**

Discovering What Membership is All About

# Commitment to His Mission

We invest our time and our resources in those things to which we are committed.

What are some things you are currently committed to?

"Then Jesus came to them and said, '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.'" Matthew 28:18-20

Christ Jesus came into the world to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). We know from his Word that he does not want anyone to perish, but for everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). And he has commissioned us as his ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) to preach the good news to all creation (Mark 16:15).

Right now, how committed are you to Christ's mission?

Does the time spent on that mission or the resources given to that mission reflect your level of commitment?

Is there time or resources given to other less important things that are taking away from a greater commitment to Christ's mission?

## Investing your resources in kingdom work

1. Store up treasures in heaven - Matthew 6:19-21
2. Give your first fruits to the Lord through a tithe - Malachi 3:7-12
3. Give beyond the tithe through offerings - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
  - \* Benevolence offering
  - \* Great Commission Fund
  - \* Special offerings

## Investing your time in kingdom work (next)

# Commitment to His People

## Commitment to Love His People

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." 1 John 4:11

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35-36

## Commitment to Care for His People

### Care for His People Physically

"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:13

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to everyone as he had need." Acts 2:42-45

The Benevolence Committee functions to help meet some of the physical needs of the those who attend Hope Church. Special benevolence offerings are collected the first Sunday of each month, but people can give anytime by simply dropping a check in the offering plate with "benevolence" in the memo.

### Care for His People Spiritually

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25

"Brothers, if someone is caught in sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:1-2

# Commitment to His People

## Commitment to Unity

John 17:20-22 "My prayer is not for them (the disciples) alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that world may believe that you have sent me."

### Unity Builders Philippians 2:1-5

#### Be united with Christ

Give top priority to your own relationship with Jesus.

#### Find comfort in his love

During times of struggle, turn to the Lord and find comfort in his love, rather than sulking with others.

#### Be in fellowship with the Holy Spirit

Keep in step with the Spirit each and every day so he can produce fruit in your life.

#### Show tenderness and compassion

Never forget the tenderness and compassion that God extends to you through Christ.

#### Be like-minded

We have the mind of Christ.

#### Have the same love

Let the love that God lavishes on you spill over to everyone around you.

#### Be one in spirit and purpose

We will stand together to reach the lost.

#### Do nothing out of selfish ambition

We don't climb our way to the top; we climb our way to the bottom where we can serve others.

#### Consider others better than yourself

The first shall be last and the last shall be first.

#### Look out for the interests of others

Submit to one another in love.

#### Maintain a Christ-like attitude

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

### Unity Killers 2 Corinthians 12:20-21

#### Quarreling

Are you arguing about insignificant things that have no biblical basis or eternal value?

#### Jealousy

Are you envious of other people's gifts or talents, their positions in the church, or the attention they receive?

#### Outbursts of anger

Is your anger adding fuel to the fire?

#### Factions

When you have a problem with someone or don't agree with a decision that was made, do you seek the opinions of others?

#### Slander

Is what you share about others building them up or tearing them down?

#### Gossip

Do you have permission to share information about others?

#### Arrogance

Are you prideful about your titles, accomplishments or level of influence at church? Are you at this church to serve or to be served?

#### Disorder

Does your involvement bring chaos or unity to the situation?

#### Unrepentance

Are you unwilling to repent of your sin and seek reconciliation?

# Commitment to His People

## Covenant of Unity

I acknowledge that conflict is inevitable in church life. I will look at times of conflict as opportunities to be a minister of reconciliation, thus bringing glory to God. I refuse to run away, and will face conflict head on so that unity can be restored to the church and our witness to the world will not be destroyed.

**If someone sins against me** (Matthew 18:15-20)

1. I will go alone to the offender and show him his fault
2. If he does not listen, I will take 1-2 witnesses with me
3. If he refuses to listen, I will bring it to the church elders to help bring restoration and reconciliation

**If someone has something against me** (Matthew 5:23-24)

If I remember that someone has something against me, I will drop what I am doing and go to that person to seek reconciliation.

**If there is an accusation against an elder** (1 Tim 5:19)

I will not entertain an accusation against a church leader unless it is brought by 2-3 witnesses.

If I have a problem with a church leader that is based on personal preference, I will not seek opinions from others, but I will go directly to that person to discuss the matter.

I understand that the Lord appoints leaders to run the affairs of the church and that I may not get my way in certain matters. I will not allow bitterness to creep into my heart, but I will trust that God is working out his purposes in his Church.

I will commit to praying for our church leaders.

If someone begins to gossip or speak negatively I will put a stop to it immediately by urging the person to talk directly to the person or people involved.

**I promise to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit here at Hope Church.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Commitment to His People

## Covenant of Unity

I acknowledge that conflict is inevitable in church life. I will look at times of conflict as opportunities to be a minister of reconciliation, thus bringing glory to God. I refuse to run away, and will face conflict head on so that unity can be restored to the church and our witness to the world will not be destroyed.

**If someone sins against me (Matthew 18:15-20)**

1. I will go alone to the offender and show him his fault
2. If he does not listen, I will take 1-2 witnesses with me
3. If he refuses to listen, I will bring it to the church elders to help bring restoration and reconciliation

**If someone has something against me (Matthew 5:23-24)**

If I remember that someone has something against me, I will drop what I am doing and go to that person to seek reconciliation.

**If there is an accusation against an elder (1 Tim 5:19)**

I will not entertain an accusation against a church leader unless it is brought by 2-3 witnesses.

If I have a problem with a church leader that is based on personal preference, I will not seek opinions from others, but I will go directly to that person to discuss the matter.

I understand that the Lord appoints leaders to run the affairs of the church and that I may not get my way in certain matters. I will not allow bitterness to creep into my heart, but I will trust that God is working out his purposes in his Church.

I will commit to praying for our church leaders.

If someone begins to gossip or speak negatively I will put a stop to it immediately by urging the person to talk directly to the person or people involved.

**I promise to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit here at Hope Church.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Hope Church: Membership

## A. Qualifications for membership

1. Confession of faith in Jesus Christ and evidence of regeneration.
2. Belief in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; in the verbal inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as originally given; in the vicarious atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the eternal salvation of all who believe in Him and eternal punishment of all who reject Him.
3. Acceptance of the doctrines of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King.
4. Full sympathy with the principles and objectives of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and cooperation by systematic support of its work.

## B. Application for Membership

1. Membership Class  
Candidates for membership shall satisfactorily complete a membership class taught by a pastor or designated teacher. The exception to this requirement is a person transferring as a member in good standing from another Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. However, they should attend the membership class when the mission statement, goals, and ministries of Hope Church are discussed.
2. Documents  
Applicants shall fill out the C&MA membership application form. All applicants will be provided with a copy of, and be required to read and consent to this Constitution, and these Bylaws. Further, they must affirm their willingness to subscribe to the uniform policy on discipline, restoration, and appeal, as found in the current edition of The Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. Such consent and affirmation exists when applicants place their signature on the membership covenant statement.
3. Age Limitations  
Candidates for membership must be at least thirteen (13) years of age. According to our church constitution, however, members under the age of sixteen (16), while encouraged to participate in most church activities, are not allowed to vote on matters of church business. Also see article V for more detail on voting limitations.
4. Elder Board Review  
Candidates for membership shall meet with the Board of Elders to give their personal testimony of conversion and commitment to this church

## C. Membership Acceptance

The Board of Elders shall act upon all applications for membership to determine if the candidate meets the qualifications for membership as stated in the constitution and bylaws. They shall also act upon requests for membership transfers from other Alliance churches. A majority vote of the total number of elders is necessary to receive the candidate into membership, which becomes effective immediately. If candidate is not accepted into membership, a member of the elders shall meet with the candidate and explain the reason for denial of membership.

# The Heart of a Servant

## The Qualities of a Servant

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11

1. From the Scripture passage above, what servant qualities did Jesus have?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. We ought to have the same servant attitude and qualities. Which of the qualities is most difficult for you?

## Greatness in God's Kingdom

Matthew 20:20-28

1. Jesus Christ came to \_\_\_\_\_, not to be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus Christ gave his \_\_\_\_\_ for the good of others. He held nothing back.
3. Whoever wants to become great must be a \_\_\_\_\_.

## See the Need, Meet the Need

John 13:2-17

1. In this passage, Jesus washed his disciples' \_\_\_\_\_. Why? Because they were dirty.
2. Washing the feet of guests was the job of the lowliest servant. What are the "lowly" jobs around church?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. If Jesus (the King of kings) can wash filthy feet, is there any job that is beneath us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What need do you see in the church and how can you meet that need?

# The Church as a Body

## **The Church is a United Body (Ephesians 4:1-6)**

1. According to verse 2, what qualities are essential in maintaining unity in the Body?
2. According to verse 3, from whom does unity come?
3. According to verses 4-5, what beliefs unite us?

## **The Church is a Functioning Body (Ephesians 4:7-13)**

1. Like our physical body, the various parts of the body of Christ work together. What functions/gifts are listed in this passage? What other gifts are listed in Romans 12:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11?
2. If the Church is the body, who is the head of the body (verse 15)?

## **The Church is a Maturing Body (Ephesians 4:14-16)**

1. What is the purpose of the various gifts according to verses 12-13?
2. What are the benefits of maturity in the body of Christ (verses 14-15)?
3. What happens to the body when each part does its work (verse 16)?

# Where Do You Fit Into the Body?

## Spiritual Gifts

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines." 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11

1. Who distributes the gifts?
2. To whom are the spiritual gifts distributed?
3. For whom are the gifts to be used? See also 1 Peter 4:10.

## How has the Lord wired you?

1. What do you enjoy most about your job or your daily activities?
2. If you could get paid to do anything, what would you do?
3. What volunteer work have you done in the past that you enjoyed?

## How do you think the Lord has gifted you?

### Romans 12:3-8 Motivational Gifts

- Prophecy
- Serving
- Teaching
- Encouraging
- Giving
- Leadership
- Showing mercy

### 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 Manifestation Gifts

- Message of wisdom
- Message of knowledge
- Faith
- Gifts of healing
- Miraculous powers
- Prophecy
- Distinguish between spirits
- Different kinds of tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

### Ephesians 4:11 Ministry Gifts

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Evangelists
- Pastors
- Teachers

## It's All About Love

1 Corinthians 12 and 14 address the topic of spiritual gifts. It's no mistake that in between these two chapters is the "love chapter" (1 Corinthians 13). Read the first 3 verses of that chapter and remember the main thing...love!



# Giving of Yourself Time and Talent Form

## Contact Information

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: F M

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Skills and Special Interests

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of involvement in previous church(es) \_\_\_\_\_

Education and/or special training \_\_\_\_\_

Community involvement \_\_\_\_\_

Special talents, interests, hobbies (examples: music, cooking, computer, sports, office skills) \_\_\_\_\_

## Ministry Opportunities (check the areas where you might be interested in serving)

### Leadership & Administration

- Serve as an elder
- Serve as a ministry leader
- Serve on a committee/team
- Help in the office when needed
- Help with special projects
- Graphic design

### Adult Ministries

- Lead a Bible study/small group
- Help with women's ministries
- Help with men's ministries
- Help with retreats/conferences
- Work with married couples
- Disciple/mentor someone

### Student Ministries

- Help with Middle School
- Help with High School
- Disciple/mentor a young person
- Help with overnights/retreats
- Provide administrative help
- Assist with youth service events

### Worship and Music

- Worship team: vocalist
- Worship team: instrumentalist
- Worship team: sound tech
- Worship team: visual tech
- PowerPoint pre-worship slides
- Usher
- Greeter
- Communion set-up/clean-up
- Coffee set-up/clean-up

### Children's Ministries

- Teach Sunday School
- Help with Toddler's Church
- Help in the nursery
- Serve as an Awana leader
- Serve as an Awana listener
- Help with Vacation Bible School
- Substitute when needed
- Provide administrative help
- Help with children's retreats
- Promote Big Sandy Camp
- Provide scholarships

### Missions and Outreach

- Hometown Missions
- Tell others about Jesus
- Help with the Hispanic Ministry
- Participate in a mission trip
- Help with Missions Conference
- Help with outreach events

### Congregational Care

- Participate in the prayer ministry
- Provide a meal when requested
- Provide rides for emergencies
- Provide emergency babysitting
- Visit people in the hospital
- Visit home-bound members
- Write notes of encouragement
- Help with funerals

### Building and Grounds

- Participate in work days
- Help clean the church
- Help with interior decorating
- Help with exterior projects

What time of day are you available to serve?  Morning  Afternoon  Evening

What level of commitment are you considering?  Weekly  Monthly  Occasional



# Giving of Yourself Time and Talent Form

## Contact Information

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: F M

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Skills and Special Interests

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of involvement in previous church(es) \_\_\_\_\_

Education and/or special training \_\_\_\_\_

Community involvement \_\_\_\_\_

Special talents, interests, hobbies (examples: music, cooking, computer, sports, office skills) \_\_\_\_\_

## Ministry Opportunities (check the areas where you might be interested in serving)

### Leadership & Administration

- Serve as an elder
- Serve as a ministry leader
- Serve on a committee/team
- Help in the office when needed
- Help with special projects
- Graphic design

### Adult Ministries

- Lead a Bible study/small group
- Help with women's ministries
- Help with men's ministries
- Help with retreats/conferences
- Work with married couples
- Disciple/mentor someone

### Student Ministries

- Help with Middle School
- Help with High School
- Disciple/mentor a young person
- Help with overnights/retreats
- Provide administrative help
- Assist with youth service events

### Worship and Music

- Worship team: vocalist
- Worship team: instrumentalist
- Worship team: sound tech
- Worship team: visual tech
- PowerPoint pre-worship slides
- Usher
- Greeter
- Communion set-up/clean-up
- Coffee set-up/clean-up

### Children's Ministries

- Teach Sunday School
- Help with Toddler's Church
- Help in the nursery
- Serve as an Awana leader
- Serve as an Awana listener
- Help with Vacation Bible School
- Substitute when needed
- Provide administrative help
- Help with children's retreats
- Promote Big Sandy Camp
- Provide scholarships

### Missions and Outreach

- Hometown Missions
- Tell others about Jesus
- Help with the Hispanic Ministry
- Participate in a mission trip
- Help with Missions Conference
- Help with outreach events

### Congregational Care

- Participate in the prayer ministry
- Provide a meal when requested
- Provide rides for emergencies
- Provide emergency babysitting
- Visit people in the hospital
- Visit home-bound members
- Write notes of encouragement
- Help with funerals

### Building and Grounds

- Participate in work days
- Help clean the church
- Help with interior decorating
- Help with exterior projects

What time of day are you available to serve?  Morning  Afternoon  Evening

What level of commitment are you considering?  Weekly  Monthly  Occasional



# Action Plan: Growing

## **Growth in the Word**

"Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming" (Ephesians 4:14).

1. Growing knowledge of Scripture
2. Able to discern truth from error
3. Able to stand firm on the truth of God's Word

Prayerfully consider what action you need to take to grow in the Word.

## **Growth in Christ**

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).

1. Growing knowledge of Jesus Christ
2. Increased submission to Jesus as Lord; obedience to his commands
3. Greater likeness to Christ in everyday life

Prayerfully consider what action you need to take to grow in Christ.

## **Growth in Love**

"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" (Ephesians 4:16).

1. Greater love for the other members of Christ's body
2. Able to maintain unity with brothers and sisters in Christ

Prayerfully consider what action you need to take to grow in love.



# Action Plan: Serving

## **Serving the Body of Christ**

"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" (Ephesians 4:16).

Prayerfully consider what work God is calling you to in the body of Christ.

## **Serving My Family**

"Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22).

"Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her..." (Ephesians 5:25).

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' - which is the first commandment with a promise - 'that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.' Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1-4).

Prayerfully consider what action you need to take to better fulfill your role in the family.



# Action Plan: Giving

## **God owns it all, including me.**

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it..." (Psalm 24:1).

"You are not your own; you were bought at a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

## **God calls me to be his steward.**

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability" (Matthew 25:14-15).

## **As his steward, he expects me to give him tithes and offerings.**

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse - the whole nation of you - because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test in me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" (Malachi 3:8-10).

Tithe: the first fruits; the first tenth of our income given to the church (before the government gets their share).

Offering: giving above and beyond the tithe for special projects

1. Does God own you and everything in your life? What are you holding back from him?
2. What percentage of your income do you give to the church? Have you been robbing God?
3. Is your faith in God strong enough to start obeying him by tithing immediately? What amount will you commit to giving to the Lord through Hope Church, either weekly or monthly?
4. What are some ministries or special projects that you would like to give to through offerings?



# Membership Application

## Membership process:

1. Attend the Discovering Hope Membership Series
2. Submit all membership paperwork to the church office
  - \* Membership Application
  - \* Family Information
  - \* Covenant of Membership
  - \* Time and Talents
3. Applications are brought before the elders for their approval
4. New members are welcomed into the congregation during the morning worship service

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status (Circle one):    Single      Divorced      Married      Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Church \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for leaving \_\_\_\_\_

Have you accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior? \_\_\_\_\_ When \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been baptized as a believer? \_\_\_\_\_ When \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your relationship with Jesus.

What do you like about Hope Church?

What does membership at Hope Church mean to you?



# Membership Application

## Membership process:

1. Attend the Discovering Hope Membership Series
2. Submit all membership paperwork to the church office
  - \* Membership Application
  - \* Family Information
  - \* Covenant of Membership
  - \* Time and Talents
3. Applications are brought before the elders for their approval
4. New members are welcomed into the congregation during the morning worship service

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status (Circle one):    Single      Divorced      Married      Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Church \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for leaving \_\_\_\_\_

Have you accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior? \_\_\_\_\_ When \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been baptized as a believer? \_\_\_\_\_ When \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your relationship with Jesus.

What do you like about Hope Church?

What does membership at Hope Church mean to you?



## Covenant of Membership

Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you walking in obedience to Christ and his Word? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe the verbal inspiration of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe that salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you accept the teaching of Jesus as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and King? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in full sympathy with the doctrinal position of the C&MA and the mission and objectives of the denomination? \_\_\_\_\_

Having accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord, according to the Scriptures, I have been born again through the Holy Spirit. I wholeheartedly believe that God is leading me into fellowship with Hope Church. I will endeavor by the help of God:

1. To live for Christ, seeking the infilling and refreshing of the Holy Spirit, promising to make the Scriptures the rule of my faith and practice, maintaining a godly home life by encouraging Bible study and prayer, and seeking by example and conversation to win unbelievers to Christ.
2. To worship regularly with God's people; to uphold the church's program of worship, training and teaching; to observe its ordinances and affirm its doctrines; to be led with other members by the Holy Spirit to serve together in the church lovingly, humbly, peacefully and prayerfully.
3. To recognize that the Great Commission is incumbent upon every follower of Christ and, therefore, it is my responsibility to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers in missionary work from this church and to pray for those who represent us in the task of worldwide missions.
4. To give regularly and cheerfully of my means for the ministry of Hope Church, for the worldwide work of the C&MA and other evangelical ministries, and for the benefit of the needy.
5. To maintain the unity of the Spirit at Hope Church; and, if conflict should arise, to seek reconciliation with those involved.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Covenant of Membership

Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you walking in obedience to Christ and his Word? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe the verbal inspiration of the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe that salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you accept the teaching of Jesus as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and King? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in full sympathy with the doctrinal position of the C&MA and the mission and objectives of the denomination? \_\_\_\_\_

Having accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord, according to the Scriptures, I have been born again through the Holy Spirit. I wholeheartedly believe that God is leading me into fellowship with Hope Church. I will endeavor by the help of God:

1. To live for Christ, seeking the infilling and refreshing of the Holy Spirit, promising to make the Scriptures the rule of my faith and practice, maintaining a godly home life by encouraging Bible study and prayer, and seeking by example and conversation to win unbelievers to Christ.
2. To worship regularly with God's people; to uphold the church's program of worship, training and teaching; to observe its ordinances and affirm its doctrines; to be led with other members by the Holy Spirit to serve together in the church lovingly, humbly, peacefully and prayerfully.
3. To recognize that the Great Commission is incumbent upon every follower of Christ and, therefore, it is my responsibility to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers in missionary work from this church and to pray for those who represent us in the task of worldwide missions.
4. To give regularly and cheerfully of my means for the ministry of Hope Church, for the worldwide work of the C&MA and other evangelical ministries, and for the benefit of the needy.
5. To maintain the unity of the Spirit at Hope Church; and, if conflict should arise, to seek reconciliation with those involved.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Family Information

Head of Household \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status (Circle one):        Single        Married        Divorced

Would you like a church mailbox?         Yes         No

Would you like offering envelopes?         Yes         No

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

## Children

Name	Date of Birth	At home	College	Military	Adult

How can Hope Church best minister to you and your family?