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Membership Handbook

AFCM Mid-Atlantic

South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia,
Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia
Directors: Rick & Pam Smith

AFCM Gulf Coast

Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana
Directors: Jane & Jeff McDonough

AFCM Great Northwest

Washington, Oregon, Idaho,
Directors: Jesse & Christine Tricola

AFCM Rocky Mountain Region

Montana, Wyoming
Directors: Todd & Teresa Rowen

AFCM Alaska

Directors: Steve & Tonia Alexander

AFCM Southwest

California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Hawaii
Directors: Mike & Jan Sparrow

AFCM Upper Midwest

North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa
Directors: Rod & Annette Rice

AFCM Midwest

Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas
Directors: Bill & June Villapiano

AFCM Ohio River Region

Ohio, Pennsylvania
Directors: Dale & Rhonda Osborn

AFCM Great Lakes

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin
Directors: Brad & Patty Brede

AFCM Northeast

New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island,
Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine
Directors: David & Carmen Acosta

AFCM Southern Plains

Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas
Directors: Elvis & Desi Wright

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A Letter from the President

Dear AFCM Member,

I want to welcome you into the fellowship of the Association of Faith Churches and Ministers (AFCM). The Lord raised up AFCM so that men and women preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ could have a means of fellowship, Godly counsel, and encouragement.

Please read the contents of this Handbook carefully. Your understanding and compliance with the communication and accountability systems of AFCM are vitally important in order to flow together in harmony.

The AFCM International office staff and leadership team are prepared to help you in any way possible. We want you to know that you are not alone in the ministry. We stand behind you and pray for you on a regular basis.

We appreciate your desire to be a part of AFCM and we consider it a privilege to have you as a member. We are here to serve you. May God's richest and best be yours as you minister the Word of God to His people.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Julius "Jim" Kaseman
President

Communication and Information

The United States has been divided into regions over which Regional Directors have been placed. These directors represent the President of AFCM in the coordination and operation of all activities pertaining to AFCM in their respective regions. Missionaries and traveling ministers should communicate with AFCM through the region in which their home church is located.

Regional Directors are required to hold fellowship meetings within their regions. We strongly urge members to attend these meetings and form relationships with other members within the same area. AFCM members may not hold AFCM meetings unless given written approval by the home office.

Members of AFCM are encouraged to communicate with their Regional Director to allow them to assist in answering questions, meeting needs, and give their prayerful support.

Many ministers desire to affiliate or associate their church with AFCM. To do so, you may contact the AFCM International Office for an application form and list of requirements.

AFFILIATE CHURCHES

These churches submit to the Board of Trustees and the President of AFCM. They use the tax identification number of AFCM when reporting to the IRS.

Benefits of Affiliation

- **Corporate Covering**

The use of AFCM's tax identification number allows smaller churches the freedom to become exempt quickly and inexpensively. There is also the protection of being under the large umbrella of AFCM in regard to the IRS.

- **Spiritual Covering**

As an affiliate church, there is spiritual covering that naturally occurs because of the greater responsibility that AFCM takes in having the affiliate church under its umbrella.

ASSOCIATE CHURCHES

These churches already have an IRS tax number, but desire the accountability there is in being associated with AFCM as well as enjoying the benefit of receiving counsel, encouragement, and support.

Benefits of Association

As a covering, AFCM stands ready to help you spiritually with matters that may arise.

Vision

The vision of AFCM is to reach the nations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. AFCM endeavors to provide support, leadership, and spiritual oversight for its member-ministries who are united in their common beliefs, who desire fellowship with other ministers of like precious faith, and who are in need of ministerial credentials provided by a reputable organization.

Although AFCM serves as a spiritual covering for its members, it does not govern any of its member-ministries. Each ministry operates independently of AFCM. However, as members of the Body of Christ, all should live lives representative of Christ and above reproach. Therefore, AFCM and its leadership strongly believe, teach, and exemplify a high standard of integrity, Godly character, and moral excellence, and encourage that standard to be duplicated throughout its membership.

Purpose

1. To provide a means of unity, strength, and fellowship among members of AFCM.
2. To assist AFCM ministers in reaching their most effective potential in the ministry to which God has called them.
3. To recognize ministers who have proven themselves through membership with AFCM.
4. To supply a means of Godly encouragement and counsel to ministers in accuracy of doctrine and integrity of character.
5. To assist in coordinating ministry projects and be a support to AFCM missionaries.

Definition of Terms

AFCM International

Association of Faith Churches and Ministers International

Board of Trustees

The governing administrative body of AFCM.

Ministerial Credentials

Ministerial credentials pertain to those believers who have the responsibility of fulfilling five-fold ministry (Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Teacher, and Evangelist). His/Her function differs from a “Christian Worker” or a person serving in the ministry of helps in that a five-fold minister is recognized by civil authorities.

Country Director

A minister who assists with care of members located within a designated country. Responsible for the coordination and operation of the activities pertaining to AFCM and its membership within his/her county.

Regional Director

A minister who assists with care of members and member churches located within a designated region. A regional director is responsible for the coordination and operation of all activities pertaining to AFCM and its members within his/her region.

Regional Support Team

The team is responsible for assisting the Regional Director in the coordination and communication of activities pertaining to AFCM and its members within his/her respective region. The degree of involvement in helping the Regional Director fulfill his/her responsibilities is left to the discretion of the Regional Director as it pertains to his/her needs.

Executive Membership Committee

A committee consisting of ordained ministers approved by the President who prayerfully consider and collectively approve each person applying for membership to AFCM.

Member

A person who has been approved and accepted as a member of AFCM whether by ordination, licensing, Christian worker status, or “membership only.”

Ministerial Licensing is for those individuals who are working part time or full time in five-fold ministry. In order to apply for ministerial licensing, one who holds a provisional license must have held that credential for a period of at least one year and must meet the requirements of a Licensed Minister. A review of previous ministry activities will be required.

Ordination is intended for those ministers who are working in five-fold ministry, have proven ministry experience, and are generally serving in full time ministry. Individuals must have held ministerial licensing with AFCM for a period of at least one (1) year and must meet the requirements of an Ordained Minister to request Ordination status.

4. Do I need to renew my membership annually?

Yes. If initial application to AFCM has been submitted prior to the October 1 cut-off date, a renewal application must be completed and returned to the AFCM office with dues payable for the following fiscal year postmarked no later than December 31.

5. May I hold credentials with AFCM and another licensing/ordaining body?

Yes. There may be situations where a minister is credentialed through another organization and wishes to enjoy the benefits of licensing/ordination with AFCM as well.

6. May I hold licensing or ordination credentials with another body and be a “Member Only” with AFCM?

Yes. “Member Only” status is for those who choose to keep their ministry credentials with another organization as well as enjoy the benefits of membership with AFCM. For example, if the organization is unable to provide fellowship in the geographic region where the minister resides, he/she may join AFCM.

7. Can I be a member of AFCM without having ministerial credentials?

Yes. If you are actively working in a Christian ministry environment (church, ministry, institution, organization), you may qualify for “Christian Worker” status when recommended by your pastor.

8. If I hold credentials with another body and am a “Member Only” with AFCM, to which body should I submit in matters of discipline? To the body that holds his/her credentials (license/ordination).

- Not given to wine (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not a striker (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not greedy of money (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not a brawler (1 Timothy 3:3)
- Not covetous (1 Timothy 3:3)
- A lover of good (1 Timothy 1:8)

Eligibility for Licensing/Ordination

AFCM uses the following criteria to test eligibility:

- One who has a divine call to a five-fold ministry.
- One who is in full-time ministry.
- One who has demonstrated this call.
- The minister must have studied and shown himself approved in handling the Word of God accurately.
- Others have recognized the call on the minister's life.
- The minister must maintain compliance with AFCM policies concerning doctrine and ethical standards.
- The minister must exhibit the proper fruit in character and ministry.
- The minister must devote significant time to preaching and teaching the Word of God from a recognized ministerial position requiring five-fold ministry.
- The minister should by virtue of his office, administer the ordinances of the church and conduct weddings/funerals.
- Except in church planting, a minister should derive most of his income from his ministerial duties.

The above-mentioned requirements should not be construed as to minimize the importance of individuals who are involved in other forms of ministry; however, AFCM recognizes the need for establishing minimum requirements for those who intend to receive ministerial credentials.

AFCM recognizes ministers from other fellowships, but transfer of a minister's credentials will not be accepted unless the minister meets the requirements as set forth in this handbook.

3. What is the difference between Provisional Licensing, Ministerial Licensing, and Ordination?

Provisional Licensing is for a minister with no prior experience or who is new to AFCM. Once a minister has held a provisional license for a one (1) year period, he/she may request Ministerial Licensing credentials by mailing a written request to the AFCM Office.

Affiliate Church

A church that has met the requirements of the Constitution and Bylaws for affiliation and uses the AFCM IRS tax number.

Associate Church

These are churches who want the oversight, counsel, and support of membership in AFCM, but who have their own IRS tax number.

Tiers of Membership

Ordination

Ordination is intended for those ministers who are working in five-fold ministry, have proven ministry experience, and are generally serving in full time ministry.

Ministerial Licensing

This level of licensing is intended for those individuals who are working part time or full time in five-fold ministry.

Provisional Licensing

This level of licensing is intended for those who feel called to five-fold ministry, but are beginning in ministry, just out of Bible School, or new to AFCM.

Membership Only

"Member Only" status is for those who choose to keep their ministry credentials with another organization as well as enjoy the benefits of membership with AFCM.

Christian Worker Status

"Christian Worker Status" is a level of membership specifically targeted for an individual who has exhibited faithfulness and effective service in a support or helps ministry role either in a church or ministry, either as a volunteer or a staff member.

Applications for this level of membership are initiated by the individual's pastor who must already hold credentials with AFCM.

Pastoral Support

Through the encouragement of Jim and Kathleen Kaseman, who are pastors to our pastors, as well as through regional ministry which is available during times of opportunity, stress and/or crisis.

Fellowship

Members of AFCM enjoy a wide range of opportunities to build relationships through regional minister's meetings and annual conferences.

Continuing Ministerial Education

AFCM provides occasions throughout the year for ministers to continue practical training to enhance their ministerial education and spiritual development through local, regional, and national conferences as well as additional training through AFCM International Training Centers (AFCMITC).

Organizational Structure

AFCM members enjoy the security of structured administration consisting of procedures and forms that allow growth in a consistent and organized manner.

Professional Resources

AFCM maintains a network of professional support (i.e., lawyers, CPAs, church growth consultants, etc.) who are available to assist credentialed members and member churches.

Church Resources

For churches who are in search of qualified ministers for their staff, as well as interim or replacement ministers, AFCM can make recommendations from its available ministers.

Itinerant Ministers

AFCM maintains a list of recommended ministers that are available to assist the local church in fulfilling their vision.

1. What must I do to apply for membership with AFCM?

STEP 1

Call the AFCM Office to request an application packet or download packet online.

STEP 2

Complete the application packet and mail it to the AFCM Office.

STEP 3

Have recommendation forms sent directly to the AFCM Office.

STEP 4

If necessary, AFCM Leadership will contact you to schedule a personal interview so that your application can be reviewed.

STEP 5

A decision will be made by the Executive Membership Committee as to the applicant's eligibility to receive credentials from AFCM, as well as the credential level (whether Christian Worker, Provisional Licensing, Ministerial License, or Ordination) awarded to the applicant.

STEP 6

The Applicant is notified of the decision by mail.

2. Who is qualified to receive ministerial credentials?

All believers are called to minister because every believer is commanded to share the Gospel with the lost. However, ministerial credentials pertain to those believers who have the responsibility of fulfilling five-fold ministry (Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Teacher, and Evangelist). His/her function differs from a "Christian Worker" or a person serving in the ministry of helps in that a five-fold minister is recognized by civil authorities. She/he requires a higher level of accountability.

Moral Qualifications

In order for a person to assume a leadership role in the Christian ministry, we feel that the highest standards of personal conduct are expected. This includes managing a happy and healthy home life and abstinence from the use of tobacco, alcohol (including wine), and/or illegal drugs.

The Bible establishes the spiritual and moral qualifications of five-fold ministers/elders in 1 Timothy 3:2-7, as well as Titus 1:1-8:

- Blameless (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Temperate (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Sober (1 Timothy 3:2)
- Of good behavior (1 Timothy 3:3)

Provisional/Ministerial Licensing and Ordination

The Executive Membership Committee, under the direction of the Board of Trustees, may ordain and/or license, as defined below, a person as a minister of the Gospel. The Committee examines the applicant's background, moral and religious character, and previous Bible courses and/or independent study the applicant has received. Final determination shall be within the absolute discretion of the President of AFCM.

Powers

Every credentialed minister shall have the power to conduct religious worship services and administer the sacerdotal functions of the Church of Jesus Christ which are in the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of this Corporation. Sacerdotal functions shall specifically include, but not be limited to, the giving of communion (bringing to remembrance the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ), the conducting of marriage services and the solemnization of marriage vows (pursuant to the laws of the jurisdiction wherein said marriage and solemnization is being performed), and the conducting of funeral services.

Licensing Period

Provisional Licensing is for a minister with no prior experience or who are new to AFCM.

Ministerial Licensing is for those individuals who are working part time or full time in five-fold ministry. In order to apply for ministerial licensing, one who holds a provisional license must have held that credential for a period of at least one (1) year and must meet the requirements of a Licensed Minister. A review of previous ministry activities will be required.

Ordination is intended for those ministers who are working in five-fold ministry, have proven ministry experience, and are generally serving in full time ministry. Once an individual has held a ministerial license for a one (1) year period, he or she shall become eligible to apply for ordination; however, during said one (1) year period, he or she shall have the same powers as an ordained minister, with the exception of the powers pursuant to the laws of the jurisdiction wherein marriage and solemnization is being performed.

Election of Members

Any church or minister interested in becoming a member of AFCM shall submit a written and signed application on a form approved by the Board of Trustees, to the Executive Membership Committee. Each application shall be considered by the Executive Membership Committee and either approved or disapproved. Applicants whose applications are so approved shall become active members of AFCM.

Qualifications

An applicant shall give clear evidence of his/her agreement with the Tenets of Faith and the policies set forth in this handbook. Also, he/she must conduct themselves in line with the spiritual qualifications given for leadership in I Timothy 2:3-7 and Titus 1:1-8.

Honorary Members

The Board of Trustees, at a duly organized meeting, may elect honorary members by a unanimous vote of the members present. Honorary members shall be exempt from payment of any fees and shall be entitled to all the privileges of regular members.

Resignation

Any member may withdraw from AFCM after fulfilling all obligations to it by giving written notice of such intention to the Director of Ministry. The notice shall be presented to the Board of Trustees or Executive Membership Committee by the Director of Ministry at the first meeting following its receipt.

Suspension/Revocation

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to suspend or revoke a member's license, ordination, Christian worker status, or membership with AFCM for cause such as violation of any of the policies or rules of the corporation, or for conduct prejudicial to the best interest of AFCM.

AFCM endeavors to personally know those who are a part of the membership.

The following are ways members are encouraged to become involved:

- Attend Regional AFCM meetings.
- Participate in AFCM outreaches/projects prayerfully and/or financially.
- Attend annual AFCM Family Reunions.
- Build relationships with members in his/her region and with the Regional Director/Regional Support Team.

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the first day of January.

Membership Dues

Annual Dues

The Board of Trustees periodically determines the amount of initiation fee, if any, and annual dues payable to AFCM by members.

Payment of Dues

Dues shall be payable in advance on the last day of December in each fiscal year. Dues of a new member elected to membership after October 1 of the current fiscal year shall be applied to the following fiscal year.

Default and Termination of Membership

When any member shall be in default in payment of dues for a period of one month from the beginning of the fiscal year or period for which such dues became payable, membership will thereupon be terminated according to the policies of the Corporation.

Eternal Retribution

We believe that those who have physically died without accepting the redemptive work of Jesus Christ are eternally lost in the lake of fire, and therefore have no further opportunity of hearing the Gospel or for repentance.

Hebrews 9:27; Rev. 19:20, 20:10-15

The Return of the Lord

We believe in the eminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ with His saints from Heaven. At the time of the rapture, "...the dead in Christ shall rise first, and then we (believers) which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the cloud, to meet the Lord in the air..."

Romans 11:25, 27; Acts 1:11; II Thess. 1:7; 4:16-17 Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-7

Human Sexuality

We believe that God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family, the basic structure of human society. God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of the context of marriage between a man and a woman. Hence, sexual activities such as, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia, and bestiality are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible, the Church, and a Christian life.

We stand fast on the scriptures and believe that homosexuality is a sin. We determine to show compassion to all, with however, no compromise.

Accordingly, neither this organization, its churches, nor its members shall conduct any marriages between persons of the same sex and shall not condone, support, or facilitate any activities which conflict with this tenet of faith.

Genesis 2:24, 5:1, 6:9, 19:5, 26:8-11; Lev. 18:22; Lev. 20:13; Romans 1:25-27; I Corinthians 6:9-11; I Thess. 4:1-8; I Timothy 1:9-10; Hebrews 13:4, 1:25-27

AFCM accepts the Scriptures as the revealed will of God and the all sufficient rule of faith and practice. For the purpose of maintaining general unity, the Corporation adopts the following Statements of Fundamental Truths and Doctrine.

The Scriptures

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, the product of the holy men of old who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. We accept as our infallible guide in matters pertaining to conduct and doctrine.

2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Thess. 2:13

The Godhead

The triune Godhead is comprised of three identifiable and distinct, though not separate, persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—who are eternally self-existent, self-revealed, and function as one entity. Jesus Christ, who is God manifest in the flesh, is the second member of the Godhead, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. John 1:1, 1:14, 16:28, 1:18, 15:26

Redemption

We are created beings, made in the likeness and image of God, but through Adam's voluntary transgression, fell, and sin came into the world. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to destroy the works of the devil and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem mankind back to God.

Romans 3:10, 3:23, 5:14; I John 3:8

The Salvation of Man

a) Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. On the cross Jesus Christ became sin and sickness providing both salvation and divine healing for all mankind, being justified freely by His grace through faith. Psalm 103:3; Romans 3:24, 10:8-10; Ephesians 2:8

b) The Evidences of Salvation. The inward evidence to the believer of his salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit. The outward evidence to

all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness.
Romans 8:16; I John 3:23

c) Faith and Works. Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and not by human works; however, our works will determine the rewards in eternity
Acts 16:3; Romans 10:9-10, 14:10-12;
Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; 2 Cor. 5:10

d) Jew and Gentile alike must receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and be born again before experiencing physical death. The Jew does not get a second chance to get saved after physical death with Jesus appearing to them and preaching to them. Abraham's bosom was closed and no longer exists since Jesus Christ paid for mankind's redemption in full. Today, when a Jew or Gentile is born again and experiences physical death, they are immediately in the presence of the Lord in heaven.
John 3:1-18; Ephesians 1:7-10, 2:14-22;
Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 3:5-16

Water Baptism

Baptism in water by immersion is a direct commandment of our Lord and is for believers only. This ordinance is a symbol of the Christian identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.
Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:35-39

Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements --bread and the fruit of the vine-- is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ, a memorial of his suffering and death, a reminder of the New Blood Covenant, and a prophecy of His second coming, and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"
2 Peter 1:41 Corinthians 11:26

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

We believe the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift from God as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers and is received subsequent to the new birth. This experience is accompanied by the initial evidence of the speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives utterance.
Matt 3:11; John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8, 2:4, 2:38-39, 10:44-46, 19:1-7

Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from sin. The Bible teaches a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." The process of sanctification will change our motives, our thinking, our speaking, our behavior and our actions. The old nature will be crucified. Sanctification is an ongoing work in the life of the Christian.
Galatians 5:24; Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12; Hebrews 12:14

The Church and Its Mission

The Church is: One New Man, One Body, One Holy Temple of the Living God made up of both Jew and Gentile. The church is the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the Firstborn, whose names are written in Heaven.
Ephesians 1:22; 2:11-22; Hebrews 12:23

Total Prosperity

Spiritual
John 3:3, 11; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10
Mental
2 Tim. 1:7; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3
Physical
Isaiah 53:4-5; Matt. 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24
Financial
3 John 2; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38;
2 Cor. 9:6-10; Deut. 28:1-14
Social
Proverbs 3:4

Divine Healing

We believe healing is provided for in the atonement of Jesus Christ. Healing is God's will for the mental, spiritual, and physical ills of mankind and is wrought by the power of God through the prayer of faith, and by the laying on of hands.
Mark 16:18; James 5:14-15;