

ALLIANCE POLITY COURSE—GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

New Workers

The Uniform Policy on Licensing and Certification in section E3-6 of the *C&MA Manual* requires that “All candidates for licensed ministry must provide evidence that they have successfully completed a course in Alliance Polity and Distinctives as approved by Church Ministries.” The course is required of candidates for licensing who have not taken a course in Alliance Polity and/or Distinctives, whether or not they have graduated from an Alliance institution. This includes students enrolled in the Ministerial Study Program.

Denominational Transfers

Section E3-7 of the *C&MA Manual*, under C Transfer from another Denomination, states that “Persons seeking ministry in the C&MA who have been previously licensed and/or ordained or consecrated by another recognized Christian denomination or by an independent or non-denominational church body, must . . . Complete a course in Alliance Polity and Distinctives as approved by Church Ministries. The LO&CC may require additional readings or papers at its discretion.”

Accreditation and Appointment

New workers should complete the Alliance Polity Course before approval as an accredited candidate. When feasible, workers from other denominations who are seeking placement with the C&MA should complete the Alliance Polity Course before appointment and licensing. In any case, a worker must complete the course within their first twelve (12) months of licensed ministry in order to continue licensing as an official worker.

Purpose of the Course

The Alliance Polity course enables a licensed worker to provide competent pastoral leadership and care for a local C&MA congregation so that it fulfills its biblical purpose, including participation locally, regionally, and internationally in the Alliance’s global mission. The course also imparts the Vision and Core Values of the C&MA, and familiarizes new workers with the significance and history of the C&MA to the worldwide Christian movement.

Materials Needed

Everything needed is contained within the online course location, or accessed from links on the site, so there is no need to purchase additional textbooks or resources. A candidate will need access to a computer or mobile computing device with internet access. Ninety-five percent of the course can be completed using any standard Windows or Mac-based browser with *QuickTime* plug-in, including on an iPhone or iPad (due to publisher’s restrictions, certain files in Module 3 are available only in *Flash*). A printer is helpful for some sections, but not required.

Design and Format

The online course has four *Modules*, each module having three to four *Units* of study. The Modules are:

- Module 1: Alliance Values
- Module 2: Doctrine and Beliefs
- Module 3: History and Strategies of Alliance Missions
- Module 4: Organization and Polity of The Alliance

Projects and Assignments

The course uses a variety of instructional methods:

- video and audio segments
- articles, opinion papers, and historical documents
- focused online discussions with other candidates and their district mentor
- interactive question/answer lessons
- case studies, scenarios, and writing assignments
- assigned practical activities

In addition to other assignments, the course guides the candidate in writing six position papers, which may also be submitted for ordination/consecration.

District Oversight

The district superintendent or LO&CC guides a candidate's study, and will appoint a mentor for them. The district mentor is enrolled in the course along with the candidate, and handles the grading of assignments and projects, answers questions, and provides additional insight in the C&MA. The mentor will forward the results of the required assignments to the district office and advise the superintendent/LO&CC when the candidate has successfully completed the course.

The mentor has full access to all of the resources, assignments, lessons, and course materials that the candidate uses, as well as to the discussion forums and grade book. A separate, mentor-only resources section provides information on using the software, rubrics for evaluating assignments, and additional guidelines for projects.

Registering for the Course

When the district superintendent or LO&CC advises a candidate of his/her need to take the course, registration is handled online through the National Office events registration system, with online payment by a credit card. Cost of the online course is \$100.00. When a candidate registers and pays for the course, the candidate and their district-appointed mentor will receive (by e-mail) a username and temporary password for the Church Ministries learning site (www.disciplesandleaders.com), where the course is hosted.