

**Ordination/Consecration Handbook**

**Revised Spring 2024**

**Significance of Ordination/Consecration:**

The Alliance experience whereby men and women are vetted, certified, equipped and affirmed for vocational ministry. Upon completion of the process, these workers are publicly recognized by the Church through the laying on of hands (ordination) and the setting apart for sacred purposes (consecration).

**Ordination/Consecration Pathway**

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Dear Emerging Leader,

Welcome to the ***ORDINATION/CONSECRATION PATHWAY*** of the MidAmerica District. As you prepare for vocational ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and seek the full affirmation of His Church, we are praying that you will find this journey to be of significance.

A mentor has been assigned to partner with you in this developmental pathway. The relationship you build with this person will be crucial for your success. We expect you to initiate contact with your mentor at least monthly.

This handbook provides information about the required assignments, expectations, and the tools that will help you to fulfill them effectively. As you complete modules, you will report, through your mentor, to the District Office. It is expected that the ordination/consecration pathway will take 2-3 years. You are encouraged to make monthly progress, using what you learn in practical ways in your ministry setting.

If you have questions, please call the District Office. We would be happy to help you in any way that we can.



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Rev. Kent Sovine

District Superintendent

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Description automatically generated**Ordination/CONSECRATION Overview**

**General Information**

**Description**

Eight modules to be completed in 2-3 years.

These modules focus on the holistic development of the Emerging Leader in the follow areas:

* Alliance DNA and Alignment
* Christ-centered Character
* Empowered Ministry (Calling, Gifting, and Fit)
* Empowered Ministry (Disciplemaking Discipleship and Mission)
* Spiritual Leadership
* Healthy Living
* Scripture Knowledge and Theological Understanding
* Life-long Learning

**Key Outcomes for Emerging Leaders**

* Confirmation of call to ministry
* Practical ministry experience in an appropriate setting
* Holistic growth and development alongside a mentor
* Strengthening of the Six Core Characteristics of an Alliance Leader

**Important Information & Dates to Keep in Mind**

* **You will read through or listen to the Bible in two different versions** **during your time in the pathway. Start now!!**
* Pay close attention to scheduling needs for the following requirements that are found throughout the modules:
  + Resonate (new worker’s retreat hosted by The Alliance National Office annually)
  + MidAmerica District Alliance Orientation Seminar
  + The Mission of God and the Alliance Family Course
  + BASICS (church planters)
  + Peacemakers Level 1 Training
  + Ordination/Consecration interview dates
  + Alliance Mission experience
  + Preaching/teaching workshop or seminar
  + MidAmerica District Disciplemaking Discipleship Training (DMD)
* Please note that you will be asked to read a wide variety of materials. Some of these books will align well with your current thinking; some of the books will present thoughts and perspective quite different from your own. Please know that the LO&CC does not fully endorse everything you will read; however, we do value being challenged in our beliefs and understandings. The appendix has a list of all of the books and a brief perspective on each one.
* Other readings may be substituted for some of the assigned readings with recommendation from your mentor and approval from the District Superintendent.
* The written requirements will vary in format, but they must be of college-level quality in content, logic, and layout.

**Completion Deadline**

Upon licensing you are expected to immediately begin working on the ordination/consecration journey and finish within three years of your initial licensing date.

If you still need to complete the prerequisite 30 hours of formal Bible/ministry education, the pace of the ordination/consecration journey can be adjusted until completion of the education. If this is the case for you, please contact the District Office with the following information:

* University or institution offering the 30 hours of Bible (must be accredited credit hours or an Alliance/District approved course of study - a minimum of 18 of these credits from Bible and/or theology courses).
* Start date and projected end date of course of study.

If you are working through both your formal education and ordination/consecration, it is recommended that you have a conversation with your mentor and the District Superintendent to see if there are overlapping aspects that can satisfy requirements for both at the same time.

If circumstances prevent you from completing the requirements within three years, an extension of up to one year may be granted by the Licensing, Ordination and Consecration Council (LO&CC). The request for this extension must come from the mentor and church elders or governing board/advisory team/board of directors.

If the modules are not completed within the allotted time, your license may be suspended until requirements, including the final interview, are completed.

***Ordination/Consecration requirements may be adjusted based on prior education and ministry experience. Requested waivers for any component of these modules must be presented to the District Superintendent. Include justification by you and your mentor.***

**MODULE 1: ALLIANCE DNA AND ALIGNMENT**

**Timeframe – to be completed as courses are offered**

**General Information**

**Module Objective**

Explore foundational aspects of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (core beliefs, values, mission, strategy, and structure), and help you to embrace and implement Alliance DNA in your ministry context.

**Key Outcomes**

* Articulate the story of how the C&MA came into existence.
* Explain and defend the core beliefs of the Alliance (including the Fourfold Gospel).
* Implement core matters of the Alliance in your context.
* Connect your local ministry to the broader mission of the Alliance both in the United States and abroad.

**Module Requirements**

**Required Reading**

1. **All for Jesus**, Niklaus, Sawain, Stoesz
2. **Fourfold Gospel (Modernized),** A.B. Simpson & Steve Grusendorf (required reading for Alliance Orientation Seminar)
3. **Begin reading through the Bible**. You are required to read through the Bible in two different versions during your time in the ordination/consecration pathway. One version can be audio.

**Required Experiences**

1. Attend the MidAmerica District’s Alliance Orientation Seminar (offered periodically).
2. Attend Resonate (new worker’s conference hosted annually by the National Office).

**Required Assignments**

1. After reading **Fourfold Gospel**, write a 4-part lesson to be used to teach new believers about the centrality of Jesus as seen through the **Fourfold Gospel**.(Feel free to be creative! Video? Blog? PowerPoint presentation?)
2. After attending the Orientation Seminar, complete the 2 page - *Alliance Orientation Seminar Homework.*
3. Become familiar with the Manual of the C&MA paying close attention to A5 – Uniform Constitution and Section H (latest version can be found at <https://cmalliance.org/resources/publications/> in the C&MA Manual).

**Mentor Notes**

**Interactions with the Emerging Leader**

1. Discuss insights and applications regarding the module requirements.
2. Review the assignments with the Emerging Leader.
3. Study and discuss the Alliance view of constituted authority and its implementation in our denomination (see mentor resources for assistance).

**MODULE 2: CHRIST-CENTERED CHARACTER**

**Timeframe – 4-month time limit**

**General Information**

**Module Objective**

Explore ongoing transformation into the image of Jesus so that you can more fully represent Jesus. Fullness of life and ministry fruitfulness will be explored as direct results of deepened intimacy with Jesus through ongoing dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

**Key Outcomes**

* Grow in intimacy with the Lord and dependence on the Holy Spirit.
* Develop ongoing spiritual disciplines.
* Develop practices that help you grow in personal integrity.

**Module Requirements**

**Required Reading**

1. **The Pursuit of God,** A.W. Tozer
2. **Wholly Sanctified**, by A.B. Simpson or **The Pursuit of Holiness**, by Jerry Bridges
3. **Broken Windows of the Soul**, Don Lichi

**Required Experiences**

1. Buy a journal. Begin the practice of recording significant moments with the Lord.
2. Schedule and plan a day for silence and solitude to pray and listen. Determine how to make this a regular part of your life rhythm and schedule dates on your calendar.
3. Establish an accountability relationship with someone you trust and determine what this relationship needs to consider in helping you with your spiritual integrity and formation.
4. Create a year-long ministry/personal calendar and an annual household budget. Discuss this assignment with your mentor regarding stewardship of money, time, and ministry skills. Identify stewardship areas that need improved and determine a course of action.
5. Write a 1-page **Pastoral Code of Ethics** to describe how you will approach ministry, leadership, travel, and counseling to ensure healthy relationships with co-workers, volunteers, and those to whom you minister.

**Required Assignments**

1. Develop a list of quotes from **The Pursuit of God**. Choose one quote from each chapter, and then write a sentence or two as to how the quote will impact your spiritual journey.
2. Read **The Pursuit of Holiness** or **Wholly Sanctified** with at least two other people. Discuss each chapter and explore the places where the Lord seems to identify needed areas of growth.
3. Discuss **Broken Windows of the Soul** with your mentor. Explore the use of Covenant Eyes or other such software for technology filters and accountability.

**Mentor Notes**

**Interactions with the Emerging Leader**

1. Discuss insights and applications regarding the assignments listed above. Is there evidence of an ongoing heart and mind transformation in the life of the Leader? Is there evidence of the Leader living in the fullness of the Spirit? Does the Leader understand the nuance of being baptized in, filled with, and empowered by the Holy Spirit?
2. Spend time with the leader and spouse discussing healthy balance regarding marriage, family, and ministry. How well does the Emerging Leader model a Christlike life outside of the ministry setting?
3. Review the Leader’s Pastoral Code of Ethics.
4. Review the Emerging Leader’s budget and calendar rhythms.

**MODULE 3: EMPOWERED MINISTRY (CALLING, GIFTING, and FIT)**

**Timeframe – 4-month time limit**

**General Information**

**Module Objective**

Clarify your ministry calling and confirm your unique gifts, abilities, personality, and passions that will help you define your fit in ministry, while helping others do the same.

**Key Outcomes**

* Know and articulate your testimony and call to vocational ministry.
* Gain greater understanding of the roles of leading, overseeing, and shepherding in the body of Christ.
* Know how to build an effective, healthy team ministry.
* Understand how to deploy your spiritual gifts, natural abilities, and God-given passions.
* Begin to identify the shadow side of your personality, passions, and motivations.
* Explore training in preaching/teaching God’s Word.
* Understand the various views on the roles of men and women in church leadership.

**Module Requirements**

**Required Reading**

1. **Church Elders: How to Shepherd God's People Like Jesus**, Jeramie Rinne
2. **Leading a Team-Based Church,** George Cladisor **Sticky Teams**, Larry Osborne

**Required Experiences**

1. Watch this brief video from Paul Tripp regarding “Dangerous Calling” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wb_pjWhKf-g>. Discuss with your mentor, and if desired, read **Dangerous Calling,** Paul Tripp.
2. Complete the **SHAPE** assessment (<https://www.freeshapetest.com/>) and lead others through this assessment to help in the deployment of the specifics of their SHAPE.
3. Complete the **APEST** assessment ([https://fivefoldministry.com/)](https://fivefoldministry.com/)
4. Complete the **SDI** assessment through the District Office.
5. Work with mentor to determine other assessments which might be needed for greater self-awareness.
6. Work through ***A Guide For Studying Roles, Titles, And Functions Of Men And Women In The Church*** available through the MidAmerica District Office.
7. Attend Simeon’s Trust Workshop or similar preaching/teaching-oriented training (consult mentor regarding options).

**Required Assignments**

1. Create a stand-alone preaching/teaching series on what Scripture teaches regarding the employment of spiritual gifts and wiring in the body of Christ. Address the role of the shepherds/elders as leaders in shepherding the body toward fruitful deployment of their gifting. Work with mentor to determine venue for sharing the teaching.
2. Write your personal testimony (include – life before Christ, a gospel explanation, your personal decision, life after coming to Christ, and your experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit) and rehearse sharing it.
3. Write a 1-page paper that engages with Paul Tripp’s advice and warnings to someone entering ministry. Why is clarity of calling so important?
4. In addition to the message in #1 Assignment above, submit one additional sermon/lecture/teaching you have shared in your ministry environment to your mentor for review.
5. Write a 1-page paper stating your findings and personal beliefs regarding the roles of men and women in church leadership and include the process you went through to arrive at your current position.

**Mentor Notes**

**Interactions with the Emerging Leader**

1. Have them practice sharing their testimony. Were they able to clearly articulate the gospel?
2. Help the leader confirm and communicate their call to vocational ministry.
3. Discuss the leader’s understanding of the roles of men and women in church leadership.
4. Help coordinate the SDI assessment, and work with the District Office to identify other helpful assessment tools.
5. Assist the leader to assess their spiritual gifts/wiring and how to use their gifts/wiring in the church.
6. Help the leader find an appropriate seminar for training in preaching/teaching skills. Meet with the leader once before they preach/teach to discuss and review message.
7. Discuss the above assignments and evaluate submitted preaching/teaching sessions (see page 29-30 for evaluation rubric).

**MODULE 4: EMPOWERED MINISTRY (Discipleship and Mission)**

**Timeframe – 4-month time limit**

**General Information**

**Module Objective**

Articulate and employ your own philosophy of evangelism and discipleship. Sharpen your understanding of mission engagement - both personally and corporately.

**Key Outcomes**

* Capture a heart for the peoples of the world – Here, There, and Everywhere.
* Discover and articulate a clear understanding of evangelism and disciplemaking.
* Develop a lifestyle of personal disciplemaking discipleship and equip others to do the same.
* Identify and engage with mission efforts in all four of your “Acts 1:8 Environments.”

**Module Requirements**

**Required Reading**

1. Read **Understanding the World’s Cultures**, Craig Storti
2. Other reading will be found in the courses/assignments below.

**Required Experiences**

1. Study Global Missions through ***ONE*** of the following:
   1. Take a C&MA college-level course on missiology.
   2. Participate in **The Mission of God and the Alliance Family** course.
   3. Take **Perspective on the World Christian Movement** course or a missiology course from a non-C&MA college ***and*** complete an Alliance missions assignment created by the MidAmerica District (contact the District Office for details).
2. Participate in a mission experience to explore a cross-cultural Alliance Mission setting (stateside or overseas).

**Required Assignments**

1. Complete the *Evangelism Engagement Assignment* on page 22.
2. Complete the *Discipleship Engagement Assignment* on page 23.
3. Write a 2-page review of your mission experience. Discuss in your paper how your local church can partner with Alliance churches/workers in all four “Acts 1:8 Environments.”

**Mentor Notes**

**Interactions with the Emerging Leader**

1. Review and refine the leader’s philosophy of evangelism and discipleship.
2. Help the leader identify the four Acts 1:8 environments in their context.
3. Help resource the leader’s mission engagement experience. Work with the District Office to choose an appropriate Alliance Mission experience.
4. Help the leader grasp the centrality of Jesus and the gospel message. Confirm the leader’s love for those who are far from Jesus and passion for drawing them near.

**M****ODULE 5: SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP**

**Timeframe – 4-month time limit**

**General Information**

**Module Objective**

Help you understand the importance of and steps to effectively leading a ministry toward health and multiplied Kingdom impact.

**Key Outcomes**

* Develop missional clarity and vision for the church.
* Understand the key practices needed to have a healthy, mobilized, multiplying church.
* Understand key components of decision-making, conflict-resolution, and change management.
* Learn the importance of effective communication, listening, and inviting feedback.

**Module Requirements**

**Required Reading**

1. **Center Church,** Timothy Keller
2. Read the article - **Leading Change: Why Transformation Efforts Fail**, John Kotter

<https://hbr.org/1995/05/leading-change-why-transformation-efforts-fail-2>

**Required Experiences**

1. BASICS – required for church planters; recommended for everyone.
2. Find and engage opportunities to sit in on leadership meetings in local churches – trying to experience as many teams, committees, and boards as allowable.
3. Participate in Alliance Peacemakers Level 1 Training.
4. Study the MidAmerica District “7 Practices of a Mobilized Church” found in the appendix (pg. 24).

**Required Assignments**

1. Read at least one free e-book about ***Church Multiplication*** from <https://exponential.org/>(examples: **Shift**, **Becoming** **Five**, **Mega-Multi-Micro**, **Spark**)
2. If you attended BASICS training, share the BASICS roadmap with your mentor and discuss implementation.
3. Write a 4-page paper focused on the required readings. This paper must include the need for team leadership in ministry settings, challenges to team leadership, contrasts between an established church and a church plant, and an outline for your personal ministry leadership plan toward multiplied kingdom efforts.

**Mentor Notes**

**Interactions with the Emerging Leader**

1. Throughout your time with the leader, work through leadership strengths and weaknesses. What does this person need to develop before leading their own ministry?
2. Talk through the opportunities for the leader to engage in church multiplication work.
3. Help coordinate BASICS Training through the District Office.
4. Review assignments with the leader, addressing what is needed to become an effective team leader in the life of their church.
5. Discuss plans for executing any necessary changes in their environment and how they will build in the 7 Practices of a Mobilized Church.
6. Carefully consider how the leader demonstrates the fruit of the Spirit in the midst of ministry. Address any perceived gaps.
7. Help the leader enroll in an Alliance Peacemakers Level 1 Training.

**MODULE 6: HEALTHY LIVING**

**Timeframe – 4-month time limit**

**General Information**

**Module Objective**

To understand how to maintain a healthy lifestyle and strong relationships while navigating the demands of life and ministry.

**Key Outcomes**

* Know the importance of maintaining physical and emotional health.
* Understand and pursue healthy relationships (restoring any that were previously broken).
* Understand the critical need for maintaining a healthy marriage/strong family life as applicable.

**Module Requirements**

**Required Reading**

1. **Emotionally Healthy Spirituality,** Peter Scazzero
2. **The Meaning of Marriage**, Tim Keller
3. **7 Myths about Singleness**, Sam Allberry
4. **Holy Sexuality**,Christopher Yuan

**Required Experiences**

1. Complete the **Emotionally Healthy Spirituality** survey.
2. Create and utilize a wellness plan using the **PIESS** worksheet on page 25.
3. If married, plan a time with your mentoring couple (or another leadership couple in the ministry) to discuss marriage discoveries.
4. Meet with someone in a similar life-stage/relational position as you and discuss how your current life-setting impacts ministry.

**Required Assignments**

1. Record a 5 to 7-minute video in which you integrate your story and lessons learned from **Emotionally Healthy Spirituality**. Discuss new understandings and next steps regarding how you might experience greater healing and freedom in areas of pain and unhealth. Share this video with your mentor.
2. With your mentor, identify places of unprocessed pain or secret sins, and create a pathway toward healing.
3. Implement needed changes to pursue physical health.

**Mentor Notes**

**Interactions with the Emerging Leader**

1. Re-read **Emotionally Healthy Spirituality** and spend time with the leader working through your own life experiences regarding maintaining healthy boundaries and balancing relationships, family, and ministry.
2. Spend time with the Emerging Leader, and spouse (if applicable), to discuss relationships, ministry as married or single, and sexuality.

**MODULE 7: SCRIPTURE KNOWLEDGE AND THEOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING**

**Timeframe – 4-month time limit**

**General Information**

**Module Objective**

This module explores the C&MA Statement of Faith and deeper matters of theology and Scripture.

**Key Outcomes**

* Ability to explain and defend the C&MA Statement of Faith
* Preparation for the ordination/consecration interview

**Module Requirements**

**Required Reading**

1. **The Bible must be read through twice in two different versions throughout the ordination/consecration journey (one time may be listened to)**
2. **Models of Premillennialism,** Chung, S.W., Mathewson, D.
3. **Section H, Manual of the C&MA 2023 Edition**
4. **Power through Prayer,** E. M. Bounds
5. **The Children’s Bread**, Keith Bailey or **The Gospel of Healing**, A. B. Simpson

**Required Experiences**

1. Review ordination/consecration interview questions with mentor (pages 37-43).
2. Develop and lead a prayer gathering based on Scripture and the core elements of **Power through Prayer**. Work with your mentor to determine an appropriate venue.
3. If you have not had the opportunity to preach/teach on two occasions, lead a sermon/lesson on sanctification and submit to your mentor for review.

**Required Assignments**

1. Write a 2-page response to **Models of Premillennialism** and then discuss with mentor.
2. Write a 22-page paper built around the 11 Tenets of The C&MA Statement of Faith following the outline below (please also see the theological position paper guidelines on pages 31-34). Submit the paper to both the mentor and the District Office for follow-up.

**For each tenet**, **write 2 pages** that cover the following:

* Through the lens of Scripture, explain the tenet to a new Christ-follower.
* Address the ways the tenet should impact the life of the Christ-follower.
* Address the ways the tenet should inform one’s approach to ministry and Kingdom advancement.
* Mention any pieces of the tenet that challenge your thinking or theology, or that you feel a need to critique.

1. Ensure church elders submit their evaluation forms found on pages 27-28.
2. Complete the *In-service Training Assignment* found on page 26.

**Mentor Notes**

**Interactions with the Emerging Leader**

1. Discuss insights and applications regarding the readings listed above being sure to include robust conversation on Section H and questions around The Gospel of Healing
2. Grade the theological position paper using the evaluation rubric on pages 35-36.
3. Review the other experiences and assignments with the Emerging Leader.
4. Help the Emerging Leader prepare for the ordination/consecration interview.

Note: The following written assignments are to be submitted to the District Office (as well as to the mentor) to be reviewed by the Licensing, Ordination, and Consecration Council (LO&CC) before the ordination/consecration interview:

* *Evangelism Engagement Assignment* (page 22)
* *Discipleship Engagement Assignment* (page 23)
* Paper on the C&MA statement of faith (page 16)
* *In-Service Training Assignment* (page 26)
* Elder Evaluation (page 27-28)

**MODULE 8: LIFE-LONG LEARNING PLAN**

**Timeframe – AFTER ORDINATION/CONSECRATION**

**General Information**

**Module Objective**

Explore the building and execution of a life-long learning plan that will help you continue a sustained journey of wholistic health aimed at decades of joy-filled life and fruitful ministry.

**Key Outcomes**

* Build a life-long learning plan.
* Implement healthy, sustainable rhythms of physical, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and social aspects of life and ministry.
* Establish accountability regarding desired outcomes of the life-long learning plan.

**Module Requirements**

**Required Reading**

1. **Living Forward,** Michael Hyatt and Daniel Harkavy

**Required Assignments**

1. Utilize the **Living Forward Action Plan Guide** to develop a life-long learning plan.

**Required Experiences**

1. Share your plan and discuss with a mentor/peer at least monthly.
2. Invite accountability regarding your plan.
3. Annually review your plan.
4. Submit Annual License Renewal forms for the MidAmerica District LO&CC
5. As much as possible, engage in a hub, co-hort, or another group of ministry leaders for peer relationships.

**Mentor Notes**

**Interactions with the Emerging Leader**

1. Discuss the leader’s life-long learning plan and help establish a rhythm of healthy accountability to encourage the journey.

**APPENDIX**

**ORDINATION/CONSECRATION**

*REQUIRED READING*

This list gives a brief statement about the books/articles found in the ordination/consecration journey. By the end of the journey, you will read most of the list below. There are other books referred to throughout the process that are options for you, but not necessarily required, and not listed below. As mentioned earlier in the handbook, you will be asked to read a wide variety of materials. Some of these books will align well with your current thinking; some of the books will present thoughts and perspectives quite different from your own. Please know that the LO&CC does not fully endorse everything you will read; however, we value exploration and are okay with you being challenged by other’s views.

1. **All for Jesus, Niklaus, Sawain, Stoesz**

Captures the heart and history of The Christian and Missionary Alliance as a family of churches seeking to make Jesus known to the world! It starts in the 1800’s and brings you into current-day realities in which we now find ourselves as the leaders writing the next chapters.

1. **Fourfold Gospel (Modernized), A.B. Simpson & Steve Grusendorf**

A brief explanation of the Alliance’s understanding of Jesus in his fullness and glory. You will explore Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King.

1. **The Pursuit of God, A.W. Tozer**

Written by a man who hungered to know God in ever increasing ways. You will take a journey into the self-life, through the veil, and ultimately into the throne room of God as you grow in intimacy with Him.

1. **Wholly Sanctified, A.B. Simpson**

Living a life empowered by the Holy Spirit! This book captures Simpson’s understanding of living in the sanctifying work of Christ in our lives.

1. **The Pursuit of Holiness, Jerry Bridges**

A call to seeking diligently to live in holiness. We have a role to play in the pursuit!

1. **Broken Windows of the Soul, Don Lichi**

Fix the one small hole in your soul so that it does not turn into a giant hole! This book will explore addictive tendencies and pursuing Christlikeness with intentionality.

1. **Church Elders: How to Shepherd God's People Like Jesus, Jeramie Rinne**

One of the 9Marks books exploring the building of an elder team. Clearly, we want the Scriptures to give us our understanding of eldership, but this book may help give some perspective on what it might look like practically.

1. **Leading a Team-Based Church, George Cladis**

The name says it all. We long to see plurality and interdependence on our leadership teams. The book helps flesh out what that might look like.

1. **Sticky Teams, Larry Osborne**

If you did not read Cladis, you will read Osborne. Sticky Teams deals with key aspects of what it takes to develop long-term, efficient harmony on teams: Landmines and Roadblocks, Equipped for Ministry, Communication.

1. **Understanding the World’s Cultures, Craig Storti**

Reads a bit more like a reference book! Understanding the cultural dynamics of those around us can significantly increase our ability to build relationships, share Jesus effectively, and lead together with those who come from very different backgrounds. This is a study book…and a very important study!

1. **Center Church, Timothy Keller**

A theology for ministry. This deeper read explores the church’s need to center and focus on the gospel and the work of Jesus. This one will take some time to work through but is an important book for church leaders.

1. **Leading Change: Why Transformation Efforts Fail, John Kotter** – Article found at <https://hbr.org/1995/05/leading-change-why-transformation-efforts-fail-2>

Short article helping you think through Kotter’s theory on change management.

1. **Emotionally Healthy Spirituality, Peter Scazzero**

Scazzero takes us into our emotional well-being. For many, this is one of the most crucial, and yet untouched, aspects of their lives and Scazzero’s work will help you explore it!

1. **The Meaning of Marriage, Timothy Keller**

An exploration of marriage - Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God.

1. **7 Myths about Singleness, Sam Allberry**

An opportunity to engage a number of unhelpful assumptions that need to change in the life of the church as relates to relationships.

1. **Holy Sexuality and The Gospel, Christopher Yuan**

An important exploration of sexuality in a world filled with confusion, pain, and constant change.

1. **Models of Premillennialism**, **Sung Wook Chung and David L. Mathewson**

Views of millennialism.

1. **Power through Prayer, E. M. Bounds**

An earnest challenge to be a people of prayer. You will be spurred on in your commitment to get with the Lord!

1. **The Gospel of Healing, A. B. Simpson**

Simpson presents a perspective on seeking divine healing. This is a challenging book that you will likely have questions about and will likely have areas of disagreement with. That is OKAY!! Explore those things in the pages of Scripture and allow this to be a book you wrestle with to determine your understanding of divine healing.

1. **The Children’s Bread**, Keith Bailey

An alternative study in divine healing.

1. **Living Forward, Michael Hyatt and Daniel Harkavy**

One of many resources out there to help you stay intentional in life. This is for after ordination/consecration and designed to be used with the companion workbook that guides you through a life-long learning plan to help you keep growing.

**Evangelism Engagement Assignment**

**Purpose**

To develop and implement an understanding of both the personal and corporate natures of evangelism and explore the creation of a culture of evangelism within the local church.

**Desired Outcomes**

1. Have an understanding of both the gospel and the Scriptural mandates regarding evangelism.
2. Intentionally make demonstration and proclamation of the gospel a regular part of life and invite accountability toward that end.
3. Explore the work of creating a gospel-sharing culture within the life of the local church.

**Requirements**

1. Participate in training and study regarding evangelism through one or more of the following:
   1. Participate in an evangelism training class, conference or seminar as determined by your mentor.
   2. Study an evangelism training book.
   3. Evangelism class and book options to consider:

* My Circle Training - <https://learn.leadcma.org/product/mycircle/>
* Easy online course: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Course/View/133972>
* Seminar through Sonlife: <https://leadthecause.org>
* **Evangelism Handbook: Biblical, Spiritual, Intentional, Missional***,* AlvinReid and Thom S. Rainer
* **The Master Plan of Evangelism***,* Robert E. Coleman
* **You Found Me***,* Rick Richardson
* **Organic Outreach for Churches: Infusing Evangelistic Passion into Your Congregation***,* Kevin G. Harney
* **Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus (9 Marks: Building Healthy Churches)***,* J. Mack Stiles
* **Telling the Truth**, D.A. Carson

1. Engage in personal evangelism efforts, working with your mentor to grow as one who is actively seeking to both demonstrate and proclaim the gospel of Jesus.
2. Write a 3-4-page paper discussing the following:
   1. What have you learned in the training/reading regarding both personal and corporate evangelism (include your definition of the gospel and the Scriptural mandates regarding evangelism)? (1 page)
   2. What are you currently doing in your own personal evangelism efforts, and how will you seek to grow personally in evangelism in the future? (1 page)
   3. How would you develop a culture of evangelism in the local church, and what are you currently doing in this effort? (1 page)
3. Submit the paper to both the mentor and the District Office for follow-up.

**Discipleship Engagement Assignment**

**Purpose**

To develop and implement an understanding of both the personal and corporate natures of disciple-making and explore the creation of a culture of discipleship within the local church.

**Desired Outcomes**

1. Understand the Scriptural mandates regarding disciple-making and the nature of disciple-making.
2. Engage in intentional disciple-making in local setting.
3. Explore the work of creating a disciple-making culture within the life of the local church.

**Requirements**

1. Attend **MidAmerica District Disciplemaking Discipleship Training** (DMD) or participate in training regarding discipleship through one or more of the following:
   1. Participate in a discipleship training class, seminar, or conference (approved by mentor).
   2. Study a discipleship training book.
   3. Discipleship seminar and book options to consider:

* **Real-Life Discipleship Training Manual: Equipping Disciples Who Make Disciples,** Jim Putman and Bill Krause
* <https://www.lifeway.com/en/shop/disciples-path>
* **Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus (9 Marks: Building Healthy Churches)***,* Mark Dever
* **Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples,** Francis Chan and David Platt
* Materials from 3DM - <https://3dmovements.com/>
* **DiscipleShift: Five Steps That Help Your Church to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples** (Exponential Series), Jim Putman and Bobby Harrington

1. Engage in personal discipleship – work with your mentor to develop a pathway for personal discipleship efforts and actively participate in discipling others.
2. Write a 3-4-page paper discussing the following:
   1. What have you learned in the training/reading regarding both personal and corporate disciple-making (include your understanding of the Scriptural mandates regarding disciple-making and the nature of disciple-making)? (1 page)
   2. What are you currently doing in your own personal disciple-making efforts, and how will you seek to grow personally in discipleship efforts in the future? (1 page)
   3. How would you develop a culture of disciple-making in the local church, and what are you currently doing in this effort? (1 page)
3. Submit the paper to both the mentor and the District Office for follow up.

A map of the world

Description automatically generatedA logo of a religious symbol

Description automatically generated

CENTRAL REGION OF THE C&MA

**7 Practices of a Mobilized Church**

A map of the world

Description automatically generated**1. Divine Expectation & Engagement**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *There is daily overarching anticipation that God is working in us, around us, and through us, and has invited us to engage in what He is doing.*  **Key Indicators** | |
| * There are regular stories of God moving * People live with expectation of God moving | * There is consistent deep seeking of the Lord and careful listening for His voice * There is a clear God-sized vision |

**2. Shared Interdependent Leadership**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *There is a diversity of healthy leaders, who function out of our uniqueness, and in complete trust of each other.*  **Key Indicators** | |
| * There is healthy relational interaction among leaders * Eph. 4:11 leadership dynamics are evident | * There is trust and permission to lead out of unique orientation and gifting * Leaders are healthy, self-aware and function out of clear understanding of who they are |

**3. Implementation of Clear Purpose & Direction**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *There is clarity around who we are and where we are going, and people own and engage in the journey.*  **Key Indicators** | |
| * + There is clear, simple, and intentional vision, values and strategies   + People know and live out the vision, values and strategy | * + Leaders and members fully invest their time, talent and treasure   + There is a high rate of engagement |

**4. Multiplication**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *There is consistent reproduction of disciples, leaders, Kingdom presence, and church planting.*  **Key Indicators** | |
| * + There is a clear disciple-making process   + There is evidence of a disciples-making-disciples culture   + New leaders are regularly identified and developed | * + There is evidence of growing kingdom presence throughout the community   + There is clarity of where to plant next and intentional movement toward that planting effort |

**5. Engaging Every Man, Woman & Child with the Gospel**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *There is a sense of responsibility along with regular and intentional movement toward our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).*  **Key Indicators** | |
| * + There is clear identification of our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8 Environments) | * + There is regular investing in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth   + There is fruit from investment in areas of evangelism and transformation |

**6. Balanced Ministry**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Purposeful, equal focus and investment are given to the areas of engaging the lost, disciple-making, equipping for impact and transformational body life.*  **Key Indicators** | |
| * + There is clarity and consistency in each area   + The church calendar is balanced with opportunities in each area | * + The budget is balanced around these areas   + People are engaged in transformational body life in a loving community |

**7. Kingdom Collaboration**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Locking arms with like-minded Kingdom ministries for greater impact.*  **Key Indicators** | |
| * + There are multiple partners working together with us for Kingdom advancement | * + There is evidence that together we and our partners accomplish more for the Kingdom |

**P.I.E.S.S.**

List the top three areas of growth in each area, followed by one “practice” that needs to be put into place to help grow in that area:

**AREA OF GROWTH PRACTICE**

**Physical**

1.

2.

3.

**Intellectual/Mental**

1.

2.

3.

**Emotional**

1.

2.

3.

**Spiritual**

1.

2.

3.

**Social**

1.

2.

3.

**In-Service Training Assignment**

**Purpose**

To serve in a licensed, official worker ministry position for a minimum of two years prior to ordination/consecration and intentionally reflect on the experience.

**Desired Outcomes**

1. Gain real-life experience in ministry leadership.
2. Experience space to learn and grow in a nurturing environment where it is okay to make mistakes and receive grace and coaching toward greater maturity.
3. Develop clear understanding of ministry strengths and weakness.

**Requirements**

1. Fulfill two years of licensed ministry.
2. Write a 2-3-page paper discussing the following:
   1. Describe the nature of your ministry experience.
   2. Discuss your personal growth and learning (including understanding of both strengths and weaknesses in ministry leadership).
   3. Share the next steps you feel you need to take in ministry around both your personal development and sense of calling from God regarding ministry.
3. Submit the paper to both the mentor and the District Office for follow-up.

**E****lder Evaluation forM**

(To be completed by each Elder/Advisory Team Member)

The MidAmerica District’s Licensing, Ordination, and Consecration Council (LO&CC) appreciates your assistance in completing this questionnaire. Your responses will greatly assist the council in its evaluation of the candidate as they complete the requirements for ordination/consecration. Please include your comments. You may choose not to sign the form. Return the completed form to the secretary of your Board, who will in turn submit all evaluations to the District Office.

1. Name of candidate:

2. Date service began in your church:

3. Please mark the box that best indicates the worker’s performance in the

following areas:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Fair** | **Poor** |
| A. Relationship with the Congregation |  |  |  |  |
| B. Relationship to the Community |  |  |  |  |
| C. Content of Preaching/Teaching |  |  |  |  |
| D. Delivery of Preaching/Teaching |  |  |  |  |
| E. Engaged in Evangelism & Discipleship |  |  |  |  |
| F. Administrative Ability |  |  |  |  |
| G. Counseling Ability |  |  |  |  |
| H. Family Relationships |  |  |  |  |
| I. Demonstrates Spirit-filled Life |  |  |  |  |
| J. Self-starter and Well Disciplined |  |  |  |  |
| K. Demonstrates a Teachable Spirit |  |  |  |  |

Any comments are extremely helpful in helping the council determine this leader’s readiness for ordained/consecrated ministry:

4. Do you believe that this person shows by their life and service that God has called them to vocational ministry?

Yes  No  Unsure

5. Do you recommend that they be ordained/consecrated to the ministry?

Yes  No

Completed by:

Date Completed:

## preaching/teaching Evaluation Rubric

**Name:       Date and Place:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY** | **10-9** | **8-7** | **6-5** | **4-0** | **Grade** |
| **Introduction** | Audience is grabbed, main theme clear, Bible text is very apparent. | Audience is caught, main theme somewhat clear, Bible text is apparent. | Audience is here, main theme almost clear, Bible text is somewhat apparent. | Audience is wandering, main theme unclear, Bible text is unclear. |  |
| **Topic / Proposition** | Key word and topic sentence very clear and very easily discernible. | Key word and topic sentence clear and easily discernible. | Key word and topic sentence somewhat discernible. | Key word and topic sentence un-discernible. |  |
| **Scripture** | Text(s) are at the very center of the message. Main points are obviously derived from the text(s). | Text(s) are at the center of the message. Main points are derived from the text(s). | Text(s) are present in the message. Main points are somewhat derived from the text(s). | Text(s) are not the center of the message. Main points are not derived from the text(s). |  |
| **Application** | The application was very clear and obviously derived from the text(s). | The application was clear and derived from the text(s). | The application was somewhat clear and maybe came from the text(s). | The application was not clear or loosely connected to the text(s). |  |
| **Illustrations** | The points were illustrated with creative excellence. | The points were illustrated with creativity. | The points were illustrated. | The points were not illustrated. |  |
| **Mechanics** | No grammatical errors. No umms, ahs, or other awkward hesitations. | Few grammatical errors, umms, ahs, or other awkward hesitations. | Many grammatical errors or umms, ahs, or other awkward hesitations. | Grammatical errors or umms, ahs, other awkward hesitations were very distracting. |  |
| **Delivery** | Passion and flow is smooth, vocal variety was very helpful. | Passion and flow is fairly smooth, vocal variety was helpful. | Passion and flow is rough, vocal variety was lacking. | Passion and flow is lacking, vocal variety missing. |  |
| **Conclusion** | The point is summed up clearly, concisely; and the challenge is clear. | The point is summed up concisely and there was a challenge. | The conclusion is unclear or there was little challenge. | The point is left hanging or no challenge. |  |
| **Overall** | Evidence of integrity, creativity, and preparedness excellent. | Evidence of integrity, creativity, and preparedness very good. | Evidence of integrity, creativity, and preparedness good. | Evidence of integrity, creativity, and preparedness inadequate. |  |
| **Length of Presentation** | Length was appropriate. | Somewhat long or short. | Long or short. | Very long or short. |  |
|  |  |  |  | **Total Score** |  |

**Presentation Length:**

**Additional Comments**

* **Strengths:**
* **Areas needing attention:**
* **Overall impression:**

**Evaluated by:**

**The completed rubric is to be submitted to the District Office.**

## Theological Position Paper GUIDELINES (Module 7)

**Format**

* Use MLA style. If you don’t have a style book you may find help at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/> .
* Typed, double-spaced, size 12 standard font (please choose from Times New Roman, Garamond, or Helvetica) in Microsoft Word for electronic submission.
* One-inch margins, flush-right header with last name and page number.
* Proper heading in the upper left corner (see example format below).

**Organization and Structure**

* The table of contents should be single spaced in an outline format.
* You must have a solid introduction for the paper as a whole. Cast vision for what the paper is about and why someone should want to read it.
* Be sure each tenant in the statement of faith is covered and that there is a natural flow and progression through these sections.

**Quotations**

* All direct quotations include a page number, either at the end of the sentence or in a footnote; quotes from the Web will not have a page number. Be sure to include the Web site on your bibliography page.
* Any time four words or more come directly from a reading, they must be placed in quotation marks and cited.
* When following an author’s ideas closely, include the chapter number in the paragraph or provide pages at the end of the paragraph.
* Use block quotation format when three or more lines are quoted, and a footnote at the end of the block quote. Block quotes do not require quotation marks.
* When citing a source for the first time, use the full name of the source, such as “According to Millard Erickson.” Thereafter, use their last name.
* When citing Scripture, use the form “Matthew 8:11.”

**Bibliography**

* Every work that you quote must be listed on this page at the end of your paper.
* Book titles must be either underlined or in Italics.
* Chapter titles belong in quotes.

**Footnotes**

* If you chose to use them, be exact with your spacing, punctuation, etc. Do not indent footnotes; they must align with the left margin.
* Using Word, the menu is Insert, Reference, Footnote. Word automatically numbers.
* Footnotes can be used to make statements that are tangent to the main body of the paper but are insightful.
* Footnotes are used when an idea or words of another are used in the paper. Cite all ideas which are derived from research. When using exact words from a source, use quotation marks and footnote them.

**Sources**

* Be sure you use multiple sources. Really USE them rather than just inserting a quote or two. A majority of your sources must be books or academic journal articles.
* Tip: Avoid using generalized internet searches; you are likely to find mostly unhelpful blurbs. These searches also get you into trouble by leading you to non-academic sources such as student papers and sites designed for those looking to plagiarize.
* Your sources should demonstrate synthesis and evaluation—not simple restatement.

**Grading**

* Be sure to review the grading rubric while you write. Be sure to read the paper description thoroughly. Using the rubric, grade your work as an additional proofread.

**Example Format on Next Page**

Doe 1

John Doe

Sanctification Position Paper

August 10, 20--

Table of Contents

Outline

Christ our Sanctifier

This is the first sentence of a great paper that is double spaced and written in many drafts so that John carefully articulates his position on sanctification . . . .

This is the first main point

[SECOND PAGE]

Doe 2

...the essay continues... . Note that the header is flush right at the top of the page . . . just like on the first page . . . .

[LAST PAGE]

Doe 30

Bibliography

Last name, First name. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

#### General Features of Good Writing

Styles, forms, audiences, and purposes of writing obviously differ from subject to subject; however, there are some general features that good writing holds in common. (Taken from **The Elements of Teaching Writing, “What is Good Writing?”** Gottschalk and Hjortshoj):

* The organization and flow of the writing sustains continuous reading from a *point of departure*, in a *clear direction*, toward a *destination*. The writing supports this continuous, directed movement, and does not let you down with disconnections, unexpected turns, or loops that force you to read back over previous sections.
* The writing is “voiced.” As a reader, you sense the presence of a writer writing, addressing you, taking responsibility for your understanding, and in effect, ushering you through the text. This sense of voice does not rely on first-and second-person address (“I” or “you”), but the writer often uses cues and transitions to maintain and direct attention.
* While this voice is typically a dispassionate voice of reason and explanation (not chatty or personal), the writer is also relaxed and engaged with the subject—not excessively formal or detached. The author is writing with a pleasing combination of authority and composure.
* The author uses this authority and composure to make difficult subjects easier for you (the reader) to understand, not to demonstrate the complexity and difficulty of his knowledge (a common mistake among student writers and scholars).

Theological Position Paper Grading Rubric

(100 points possible)

Paper Written by:

Title of Paper:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CATEGORY** | **10-9** | **8-7** | **6-5** | **4-0** | **Score** |
| **Comprehensive Treatment** | Each statement is thoroughly and thoughtfully developed. | Each statement is adequately developed. | Each statement is somewhat developed. | Inadequate treatment of the subject. |  |
| **Sub-theme Development** | Each listed theme is covered with excellence. | Each listed theme is covered adequately. | Most listed themes are covered adequately. | Inadequate sub-theme development. |  |
| **Theological**  **Clarity** | The candidate’s theological perspective is very obvious. | The candidate’s theological perspective is fairly obvious. | The candidate’s theological perspective is unclear. | The candidate’s theological perspective is lacking. |  |
| **Cogency** | The paper presents a convincing argument. | The paper presents a well-developed argument. | The paper presents a weak argument. | The paper’s argument falls apart. |  |
| **Scripture** | Texts are very well utilized to support the thesis and argument. | Texts adequately support the thesis and argument. | Texts inadequately support the thesis and argument. | Texts fail to support the thesis and argument. |  |
| **Theological**  **Soundness** | Each statement admirably aligns with Alliance theology. | Each statement adequately aligns with Alliance theology. | Each statement differs somewhat with Alliance Theology. | Each statement differs significantly with Alliance theology. |  |
| **Applicability** | The paper pointedly applies the subject to life and ministry. | The paper adequately applies the subject to life and ministry. | The paper lacks application to life and ministry. | Inadequate application. |  |
| **Research and Study** | The paper was obviously well researched. | The paper was apparently well researched. | The paper was probably researched. | Research? |  |
| **Mechanics** | MLA format perfect. No grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. | MLA format very good. Almost no grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. | MLA format adequate. A few grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. | MLA format lacking. Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. |  |
| **Organization** | Table of Contents, Outline, and Bibliography are done with excellence. The paper is 22 pages in length. | Table of Contents, Outline, and Bibliography are done well. The paper is too short or too long. | Table of Contents, Outline, and Bibliography are present. The paper is very short or very long. | Table of Contents, Outline, and Bibliography are lacking. The paper is excessively short or long. |  |
|  | | | | **Total Score** |  |

**Additional Comments**

* **Strengths of the Paper:**
* **Areas for Improvement:**
* **Other Comments:**

**The position paper and completed rubric are to be submitted to the District Office.**

**Graded by:**

**Date Graded:**

## Questions for OrDINATION/consecration Interview

##### **Personal History**

1. How have your ministry and personal journeys been since your Accreditation interview?
2. Please give us a brief summary of your spiritual journey, including your experience of determining God’s call to ministry.
3. What is your personal pattern of communing with God and what role does Scripture and prayer play in that?
4. What particular strengths/weaknesses have emerged in your first years of ministry?
5. Describe what you have learned about yourself over the last 5 years.
6. What do you know for sure that God has called you to?
7. What lies and/or labels do you still struggle with?

##### **The Holy Scriptures**

1. Define and distinguish between revelation, inspiration, and illumination.
2. What does Scripture teach about extra-biblical revelation?
3. What is the relationship between Scripture and divine guidance?
4. What does the term “scriptural inerrancy” mean to you? Why does it matter that Scripture is inerrant?
5. What is the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament?
6. What criteria were used for determining which books were included/excluded in the canon of Scripture?
7. Explain the relationship between the Word of God and Scripture.
8. Explain how Scripture is relevant to the average person in your church.

##### **The Trinity**

1. Where would you go in Scripture to support the doctrine of the Trinity?
2. What is the biblical basis for the confession, “There is one God”?
3. What is the biblical basis for the belief that God exists "in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit"?
4. Distinguish between Jesus as “begotten not made” and the Holy Spirit as proceeding from the Father and Son.
5. What contemporary theological positions raise serious questions for the traditional doctrine of the Trinity?
6. What does the Triune Nature of God teach us about our own human relationships?

##### **The Person of God**

1. How does Scripture describe God?
2. What is the basis for the Christian belief that God is a person?
3. Name some of the attributes of God and give a few scriptural incidents that reveal these attributes.
4. Explain the meaning of “holy” in reference to God and explain why it underlies all else in the character of God.
5. Explain the terms theism, deism, atheism, humanism, and agnosticism?
6. What are some of the evidence and arguments for the existence of God?
7. What is your belief concerning God, creationism, and evolution?

##### **The Person of Christ**

1. Describe some of the character and priorities of Jesus.
2. What are some of the names of Christ given in Scripture?
3. Do you believe that Jesus is Lord? Why?
4. Is Christ eternal? (Does He have beginning or end? Was there a time when He was not?)
5. Give examples of the person of Christ in the Old Testament?
6. What biblical evidence is there that Christ was conscious of His divinity?
7. What is the Scriptural foundation for believing that Christ had both a divine nature and a human nature?
8. Why are both natures essential to the person of Christ?

##### **The Person of the Holy Spirit**

1. What qualities and ministries, possible only for a person, are attributed to the Holy Spirit?
2. What has been the role of the Holy Spirit in your life? What Scripture confirms the validity of your experience?
3. How is the personal nature of the Holy Spirit demonstrated in the Old and New Testaments?
4. Give us a brief explanation of the Scriptural teaching on the gifts of the Spirit.
5. How would you differentiate between the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit?
6. What does Scripture teach concerning the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the filling with the Holy Spirit?
7. What is one caution you would give regarding how a person pursues the person and work of the Holy Spirit?

##### **The Atonement**

1. Give a brief explanation of the teaching of Scripture on the atonement.
2. Is there any limitation concerning who may benefit from the atonement of Christ?
3. Is the atonement effective in human lives where the gospel is unknown?
4. What aspects of man’s condition made the atonement necessary?
5. Could anyone other than Christ have made an acceptable offering?
6. What assurance do we have that the offering of Jesus was acceptable to God?

##### **Justification and Regeneration**

1. Define and contrast justification and regeneration, and give a brief explanation of the teaching of Scripture on the two.
2. Who performs the work of regeneration?
3. What is the nature of the change brought about by regeneration?
4. What is the continuing purpose of regeneration in one’s personal life?

##### **Sanctification**

1. Define sanctification.
2. What is the relationship between justification and sanctification?
3. What is the relationship between regeneration and sanctification?
4. In what way is progression connected with experiential sanctification?
5. In what way is the believer “dead to sin and alive to God?”
6. What is the practical significance of sanctification to the Christ-follower’s lifestyle?
7. What is meant by positional sanctification and progressive sanctification?
8. Explain how the Alliance has historically used the idea of “crisis” in relationship to sanctification.
9. What does the Scriptural phrase "dead to sin and alive to God" mean?
10. What is meant by the phrase “the indwelling Christ?”
11. What is Scriptural evidence of a sanctified life?

##### **Healing**

1. Explain the biblical basis for healing and its relationship to the redemptive work of Christ.
2. What instruction does James 5 teach in relation to healing?
3. Explain the difference between the “gift of healing” and “healing prayer” as described in James 5.
4. How would you counsel a believer who has followed the instructions of James 5 and is still seeking a miraculous healing?
5. In the anointing and prayer ministry for the sick by the elders, what does “the prayer of faith” mean?
6. How is the problem of sin related to the problem of sickness?
7. What is the difference between miraculous healing and divine life for the believer?
8. Describe the Scripture’s teaching regarding human suffering.

##### **The Return of the Lord**

1. What biblical passages have been major factors in developing your convictions concerning the second coming of Christ and related events?
2. How will the second coming of Christ differ from His first coming?
3. What do you believe about the reign of Christ?
4. What are the differences between the doctrines of premillennialism, post-millennialism, and amillennialism?
5. Which of the views do you hold? Why?
6. What major events will occur during and after the millennium?
7. Why does one’s view of the millennium matter?
8. Describe the basic tribulation positions and what is your position?
9. What does the term “the imminent return of Christ” mean to you and what Scriptural foundation do you have for your understanding?
10. How do you understand the relationship between Israel and the Church?

##### **The Resurrection**

1. What does the term resurrection mean?
2. Do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Why?
3. How important is the doctrine of the resurrection to the Christian faith?
4. What are the essential points of Paul’s teaching on the resurrection in I Corinthians 15?
5. What happens to the believer when he is resurrected? to the unbeliever?
6. What is the biblical doctrine of heaven?

##### **The Lostness of Man**

1. Take 2 minutes to explain the gospel.
2. Describe your rhythms of sharing the gospel.
3. According to Scripture, what is the inevitable result of lostness?
4. What is the destiny of those who die outside of Christ having never heard the gospel?
5. What does the Bible teach about hell? Is it literal?
6. Is there any possibility of salvation after death?

##### **The Doctrine of the Church**

1. What Is the Church?
2. What are some of the metaphors used in Scripture to describe the Church?
3. What is the Scriptural mission of the Church?
4. What is the purpose and function of the local church assembly?
5. What is the biblical basis for reproducing/growing the church?
6. Does church planting matter?
7. What responsibility do you have in church planting?
8. What is the Scriptural procedure for church discipline?
9. What is the role of the pastor in church leadership?
10. What are the Scriptural qualifications and functions of elders/church leaders?

##### **Other Doctrinal Matters**

1. Explain the Scriptural teaching regarding the powers of evil in the spiritual realm.
2. How should the Christ-follower engage in spiritual warfare?
3. Describe the primary influencers on your theological development.

##### **Mission and Vision**

1. Give a brief overview of Alliance history and distinctives.
2. What do you understand to be the primary mission of The Christian and Missionary Alliance?
3. How do you reflect this mission in the life of your congregation?
4. How does being a part of the Alliance impact your life and ministry personally?
5. What are the practical implications of the philosophy of ministry represented by the words “win,” “build,” “equip,” “multiply,” and “send”?
6. What is the overall objective of Alliance international church planting and missionary work?
7. In what way is the task of Alliance missions also your personal responsibility?
8. What is the responsibility of the local church to the global vision of The Christian and Missionary Alliance?
9. How have you included the missionary emphasis in your regular preaching and church life?
10. In what ways do you encourage the sending out of “called ones” to participate in either short term or long term in missions?
11. What is the importance of an annual missions conference to your local church and to The Christian and Missionary Alliance?
12. How have you implemented intercession for international workers in your congregation?

##### **Alliance Church Government**

1. What is the form of local church government in The Christian and Missionary Alliance?
2. In what way is the local church subordinate to General Council and District Conference?
3. What is the role and function of the district superintendent as it relates to you and your church?
4. What would your attitude and anticipated action be if your superintendent suggested that you make a change in your place of ministry?
5. If the majority of your governing board desired your resignation and you felt otherwise, what would you do?
6. What is the proper procedure for submitting a pastoral resignation?
7. How should you engage with your prior church family after your resignation?
8. What procedure should be followed in seeking an opportunity to candidate in another church?

##### **Constituted Authority in the C&MA**

1. What is the Scriptural basis for the concept of “constituted authority” as understood in The Christian and Missionary Alliance?
2. If you should become personally involved in doctrines contrary to the “Statement of Faith” of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, what would you do?
3. Are you willing to serve under the leadership of a district superintendent?
4. What difference is there in being led by the Spirit and being subject to recognized authority in the church?
5. Why is it important for the pastor to attend General Council and District Conference?

##### **Pastoral Ministry and Personal Relationships**

1. Give a Scriptural definition of shepherding.
2. What is the relationship between the pastor and the governance authority of the local church?
3. How would you deal with a conflict between you and a member of the governance authority?
4. What is your attitude about your personal convictions that may conflict with the church you serve?
5. What is your procedure in counseling or working with persons of the opposite sex?
6. Are there any areas of your life that you are currently neglecting?
7. Describe your social media presence.
8. What has been your greatest experience of pain in life?
9. Define integrity. Do you live in it?
10. Do you have any addictions in your life?
11. Do you feel as though there are any secrets tucked away in a closet in your life?
12. What do you do when you feel like "checking out?"
13. How do you cope with criticism? What if it becomes personal?
14. How do you manage your time as it relates to both personal and work?
15. What does the Scripture mean when it says to “avoid all appearance of evil?”
16. What is your attitude about stewardship and the personal use of money?
17. What is your attitude and current status toward personal financial indebtedness?
18. Have you had any involvement with pornography in any form since your accreditation interview?
19. Do you have any controls on the use of your devices and computers?
20. Do you have an active personal accountability relationship with one or more persons? What is the nature of that relationship?
21. How do you invest in your family?
22. What is a biblical understanding of marriage?
23. How does your spouse experience you? How does your spouse want to experience you?
24. Explain your involvement in personal and corporate prayer.
25. What is the relationship between prayer and pastoral ministry?
26. How are you equipping the saints?
27. What is a disciple of Christ? How do you make one?
28. How are you building a culture of evangelism and discipleship in your ministry?
29. What is your plan for on-going development?

##### **Doctrinal Statement of The Christian and Missionary Alliance**

1. Have you read and are you in full support of the “Statement of Faith” as found in the current Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance?
2. How will you deal with controversial theological issues within the evangelical community in your church?
3. Have you read all of the statements found in the Section H of the Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance? What is your position related to these statements?

**MidAmerica District Office**

The District Office staff want to serve you in any way we can as you go through the ordination/consecration process. Please call anytime!

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A logo with a cross and a red circle

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