



# Affiliation

HOW TO JOIN CONVERGE MIDATLANTIC

[converge.org/midatlantic/affiliation](https://converge.org/midatlantic/affiliation)



CONVERGE MIDATLANTIC IS A MOVEMENT  
OF CHURCHES WORKING TO HELP PEOPLE  
MEET, KNOW AND FOLLOW JESUS.

## A WORD FROM BRIAN WEBER, EXECUTIVE MINISTER

I'm so glad that you're interested in joining Converge MidAtlantic. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." This means that your church matters! You carry out the mission of Jesus in your community until Christ returns. We believe that every neighborhood needs a vibrant, gospel-centered church, like yours.

It's important that churches care for one another today. In every neighborhood, there are unique challenges that can overwhelm a church. A congregation that is isolated from the greater community of faith can succumb to worldly pressures and fail.

Converge MidAtlantic is a culturally diverse movement of churches that truly aims to care for one another. We have gatherings where pastors and leaders can build relationships and encourage each other. We provide resources, coaching and training in order to strengthen one another. Converge churches work together to launch new congregations in neighborhoods that need a fresh expression of Christian community. We can do more!

Our desire is that every church reaches its God-given potential to effectively represent Christ in its community. We truly believe we are better together. If this sounds exciting to you, then we invite you to become part of the Converge MidAtlantic family.



*Brian Weber*

# Church Affiliation Process

## STEP-BY-STEP DESCRIPTION

### 1 BUILD THE RELATIONSHIP

#### Let's get to know each other:

- Attend one or more regional LEAD team meetings and Converge events.
- Invite a Converge MidAtlantic representative to visit your church to meet with your leaders.
- Have a Converge MidAtlantic representative preach or give a presentation about Converge during a worship service or special congregational meeting.
- Review the following Converge MidAtlantic documents: Affirmation of Faith, Mission and Values, Expectations of Membership, and Benefits of Partnership included in this booklet.
- Learn more about Converge MidAtlantic on our website at [converge.org/midatlantic](https://converge.org/midatlantic)

### 2 APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP

#### Apply for membership with Converge MidAtlantic:

**Application:** Complete the online application and attach the following documents for us to review:

- *Church Statement of Faith*
- *Constitution and by-laws*
- *Summary of the church's history*

**Group Interview:** Converge MidAtlantic pastors from the regional LEAD team would like an opportunity to meet with the pastor and key leaders of your church. During the interview they will discuss what it means to be a member of Converge MidAtlantic and answer any remaining questions that you have. The pastors at the meeting will make a formal recommendation to the Board of Converge MidAtlantic that your church be welcomed as new members.

### 3 COMMIT TO PARTNERSHIP

#### Commitment from your church:

- Your church will need to hold a vote according to its by-laws, whether as a congregation or leadership board, in order to join Converge MidAtlantic.
- After the vote, your church must submit a letter to Converge MidAtlantic on official letterhead stating that the church has approved by vote its intention to join in membership.

#### Commitment from Converge MidAtlantic:

- The Board of Overseers will vote on the recommendation from the LEAD team to welcome your church as a new member and partner in ministry.
- The pastors of the LEAD team will sign a certificate of membership and present it to your pastor at the next regular LEAD team meeting.
- When your church is welcomed as a new member of Converge MidAtlantic it also becomes a member of the national Converge movement.

### NEXT STEPS

If you're ready to get started with the affiliation process, visit [converge.org/midatlantic/affiliation](https://converge.org/midatlantic/affiliation) to start the application.

If you have questions, you can reach us at [office@convergemidatlantic.com](mailto:office@convergemidatlantic.com) or call 330.757.7970.

# Mission, Values & Beliefs

## OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

### The Word of God

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

### The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

### God the Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit; perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of all people, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

### Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

### The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus

Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

### Regeneration

We believe that all people are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

### The Church

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

### Christian Conduct

We believe that Christians should live for the glory of God and the well-being of others; that their conduct should be blameless before the world; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

### The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: baptism and the Lord’s Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord’s Supper

was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Religious Liberty

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

### Church Cooperation

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether it is the Conference or a district conference, exists and functions by the will of the churches. Cooperation in a conference is voluntary and may be terminated at any time. Churches may likewise cooperate with interdenominational fellowships on a voluntary independent basis.

### The Last Things

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

## OUR MISSION

WE HELP PEOPLE MEET,  
KNOW AND FOLLOW JESUS.  
WE DO THIS BY STARTING AND  
STRENGTHENING CHURCHES  
TOGETHER WORLDWIDE.

## OUR VALUES

We are devoted to being one movement that is:



SPIRITUALLY  
DEVOTED



MISSIONALLY  
DRIVEN



RELATIONALLY  
CONNECTED



CULTURALLY  
DIVERSE



# Starting

## BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

Converge churches are committed to starting new congregations so that every neighborhood can have a vibrant, gospel-centered church.

The task of planting a successful church is not easy, but we believe ANY church can multiply no matter its size or stage of ministry. When you plant with Converge, you'll be able to implement proven systems that will help increase the long-term success and health of your church plant or campus, so more people will have the opportunity to place their faith in Jesus.

You'll also receive:

- Nationally renowned assessment center and proven process to identify qualified church planters
- Practical training and resources to help you launch faster
- Tested strategies contextualized to your model of ministry and target community
- Personalized coaching and leadership development
- More importantly, you'll be part of a family with other experienced church planters and mentors to support you and enthusiastic partners who want to see you succeed



“CONVERGE HAS NURTURED,  
EQUIPPED, TRAINED AND LOVED  
US LIKE NO OTHER. WE ARE  
FOREVER GRATEFUL TO GOD  
FOR LEADING US TO BECOME  
A PART OF THE CONVERGE  
MIDATLANTIC FAMILY.

**BRIAN THOMPSON**  
CHURCH PLANTER, D.C. AREA



“CONVERGE MIDATLANTIC LISTENED TO OUR CHURCH LEADERS SHARE ISSUES AT HAND, AND THEY OFFERED INSIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOW WE COULD MOVE FORWARD AS A BODY OF CHRIST. IT HELPED US DISCOVER A NEW MISSION AND VISION FOR OUR CHURCH.



**JARED HEATON**  
PASTOR, VA

## Strengthening

### BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

Every family goes through good times and difficult challenges. The same is true for churches. This is why it's important for Converge churches to know and care for each other. We are convinced that healthy churches are led by healthy leaders, and pastors thrive when they have environments to strengthen one another. For this reason, Converge MidAtlantic creates resources that provide support so that ministry and personal life can thrive.

- Personal and group coaching networks
- LEAD teams for pastors to Learn, Encourage, Achieve and Dream together
- Vision-casting materials and other leadership development tools
- Pastoral searches and interim pastor placement services
- Access to regional and national events and conferences
- Assistance with church revitalization, restarts and mergers
- Capital campaign consulting and generosity training
- Assistance for conflict resolution, crisis management and strategic planning
- Pension and retirement plans for church staff
- Loan program for new construction and building improvement





# Sending

## BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

Did you know that there are more than 4700 ethnic groups in the world that have not yet heard the gospel? That's 1.8 billion people who have not experienced the life-changing love of God. The good news is that you can make a difference!

Together we are asking God for a gospel movement among every least-reached people group—in our generation. Converge MidAtlantic is building partnerships and collecting resources to empower churches like yours to effectively fulfill the Great Commission. Converge MidAtlantic churches are working together to raise up a new generation of missionaries to reach the world.

- Strategic coaching to move your church into high-impact, cross-cultural engagement
- International initiatives where your church can make an impact
- An assessment center to identify qualified missionaries from your church
- Missionary training and support
- Church planting in the least-reached and most remote areas of the world
- Networks of churches working together to reach the same areas of the world
- Vision trips for church leaders to see God's work around the world
- Compassion International child sponsorship to release children from poverty in Jesus' name

## OUR MINISTRY PARTNERS



“WE BRING GRACE,  
MERCY, COMPASSION  
AND THE TRUTH OF  
JESUS INTO A BROKEN  
CULTURE. IT’S A MISSION  
WE ARE 100 PERCENT  
BEHIND—WITHOUT  
EXCUSES.



**TOMMY THEISEN**  
LEAD PASTOR, OH



# Expectations of Membership

God designed us to live for something bigger than ourselves and our churches. So our movement of autonomous congregations choose to work together, starting and strengthening churches and sending missionaries. Their collaboration includes participation in resourcing those efforts locally and globally.

- **Commitment to the Converge Affirmation of Faith**

*Your church's affirmation of faith does not need to be the same as the Converge statement, but it should be consistent with the Converge statement.*

- **Commitment to practice believer's baptism by immersion**

- **The church's membership should be comprised of those who have followed Christ in believer's baptism by immersion**

*Converge MidAtlantic also recognizes churches that have an entry level membership of believers who are not immersed, but who do not serve in spiritual leadership positions until baptized.*

- **Governance that includes both spiritual leadership and congregational involvement**  
*For example, congregational involvement in church governance could include voting to call a pastor, affirming the selection of elders, affirming an annual budget and/or approving changes to the constitution.*

- **It is recommended that your church's constitution include a statement of membership with Converge MidAtlantic. It's also recommended, but not required, that Converge MidAtlantic is listed as a beneficiary of assets in the case of dissolution.**

- **Active participation in the mission and vision of Converge through prayer, personal involvement and financial support**

*We strongly encourage you to connect with Converge pastors at regional LEAD team meetings and other Converge events for mutual encouragement. We urge your church to seek ways to participate in collaborative ministry endeavors and church planting efforts as the Lord leads.*

*We humbly ask your church to give generously and cheerfully to Converge's mission to start and strengthen churches together worldwide. For every \$3 that your church gives to Converge MidAtlantic, we recommend giving \$1 to Converge National. An ideal goal is that your church would give 3% of the church budget to Converge MidAtlantic and 1% of the church budget to Converge National.*



## Better Together

Some churches don't believe they need to be part of a movement. They are confident they can accomplish ministry without the help of others. Yet in hard times, where do you turn?

Imagine partnering with other like-minded churches, pastors, staff and congregations—all working together to accomplish the same goal. Your goal. Our goal. God's goal: *helping people meet, know and follow Jesus.*

What if you could take more ground for the kingdom, faster and better? Would it be worth joining the team?

More than an official welcome, you will enter into partnership with a vibrant group of missional leaders. And you will establish relationships that strengthen you personally as well as the ministry of your church. You'll be part of global ministry eager to help see Christ's Great Commission completed in this generation.

**Get started at [converge.org/midatlantic/affiliation](https://converge.org/midatlantic/affiliation)**





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