



## **Application for Affiliation**

Converge North Central and Converge

Date:

Name of Church:

Mailing Address:

City, State, Zip:

Meeting Address (if different than mailing address):

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Church Email:

Website:

Pastor:

Pastor Email:

Date the church was organized:

Number of charter members:

Date the church was legally incorporated:

Please give a brief history of the church.

*How did the church begin? What person(s), group(s) or denomination(s) was responsible for starting the church? How long has the current pastor served the church? How many staff? Etc.*

Please note any significant events or developments in the history of the church.  
*Relocation, significant growth or renewal, church split(s), etc.*

What is the current membership of the church?

What is the average weekend worship attendance?

Do you own a building?

Has the church, or is the church currently affiliated or associated with other denominations or groups? If so, which group and for how long?

Do you have intention to be dually affiliated? If so with what denomination?

What are the reasons for the church's desire to affiliate with CNC and Converge National

Have the church leaders been made aware of the *Affirmation of Faith*, the *Ministerial Code of Ethics*, and ministries of CNC and Converge National? When will your church formally accept the basic requirements and approve this application for membership in Converge North Central?

Does your church hold it's own 501(c)(3) designation?

Does your church wish to participate in the Converge Group Exemption for their 501(c)(3) status?

Does the church and its leadership desire to fellowship with and financially support the ministries of CNC and Converge National?

What questions do you have of CNC at this point?

Application completed by:

Position in church:

Pastor's Name:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Chairperson's Name:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this to Converge North Central along with the following church documents (scan and email or mail):

- Church's Statement of Faith
- Adopted Constitution and By-Laws
- Copy of Certification of Incorporation and Federal ID Number (FEIN)
- Documentation of current 501(c)(3) status
- Signed Statements of Agreement with *Converge Affirmation of Faith* and *Ministerial Code of Ethics*.

**To be filled out by the CNC Office**

Date Application Received:

Date of Board of Steward Action:

Date of Church Acceptance into CNC:

BOS Chairperson:

Date:

Completed by:

## Converge National (Baptist General Conference) Affirmation of our 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 each person, 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 confession 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 a regional or 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 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. Adopted by the Baptist General Conference in 1951, reaffirmed in 1990 and amended in 1998.

[Our church agrees with this Converge National Affirmation of our Faith](#)

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Church Chairperson Signature

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Date

## Converge National (Baptist General Conference) Ministerial Code of Ethics

The following standards are set forth in an effort to create professional understanding and to preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline and promote the integrity of our chosen profession—the ministry of Jesus Christ.

### My Person

I will endeavor to pray daily, to read, study and meditate upon God's Word; and to maintain extended times of contemplation. I will plan times to be with my family, realizing my special relationship to them, and their position as important members of my congregation.

I will seek to keep my body physically fit through proper eating habits and planned exercise, renewing myself through weekly time off and through vacations.

I will try to keep myself emotionally fit, keeping in touch with my feelings and growing in healthy control of them.

I will strive to grow through comprehensive reading and through participation in professional educational opportunities.

I will be a servant of God seeking to maintain a life of purity, integrity and truthfulness.

I will avoid lust, pornography and sexual sin.

I will not abuse my own body and will avoid addictions of all kinds.

I will not emotionally, verbally, physically or sexually abuse my spouse, my children or any other person.

I will seek professional help promptly when I need personal support or intervention.

I will seek to develop accountable relationships with one or more of my peers of the same gender.

### My Calling

I will seek to conduct myself consistently with my calling and commitment as a servant of God.

I will give priority to my congregation and will accept added responsibilities only if they do not interfere with the overall effectiveness of my ministry in the congregation.

I will consider a confidential statement made to me as a sacred trust.

I will responsibly exercise the freedom of the pulpit, speaking the truth of God's Word with conviction in love; and will acknowledge any extensive use of material prepared by someone else.

### My Finances

I will advocate adequate compensation for my profession and will assist the congregation in understanding that a minister should not expect or require fees for pastoral services to them.

I will be honest in my stewardship of money, paying bills promptly, asking no personal favors or discounts on the basis of my professional status.

I will give tithes and offerings as a good steward.

### My Congregation

I will seek to regard all persons in the congregation with equal love and concern and undertake to minister impartially to their needs and refrain from behavior that will be divisive.

I will treat all those in the church with dignity and respect, while retaining the right to establish close friendships within the congregation.

I will exercise confidence in the lay leadership, assisting in their training and mobilizing their creativity.

I will seek to lead the church in a positive direction. I will remain open to constructive criticism and to suggestions intended to strengthen our common ministry.

I will candidate at only one church at a time. I will respond promptly and definitely to a call, and I shall seek to deal fairly with the church I am presently serving.

### My Colleagues

I will seek to maintain supportive, caring and accountable relationships with my colleagues in the ministry. I will seek and honor all commitments made with other pastors, and I will respect the pastoral relationships that my neighboring pastors have with their parishioners.

I will, upon my departure, sever my pastoral relations with the congregation, recognizing that all pastoral functions should henceforth rightfully be conducted by my successor. I will not agree to perform any pastoral services in a church I have previously served until I have first obtained permission from the current pastor.

I will, upon retirement or withdrawal from the ministry, refrain from engaging in pastoral functions within our church fellowship unless requested by the pastor.

### My Denomination

I will cooperate with the personnel of the Baptist General Conference and of the district in which I serve and offer responsible criticism in order that our common service in the kingdom of God might be more effective. In the event that I seriously violate the vows I have made to God and my church; I will submit to the restoration/reconciliation process established by my denomination and my church. Furthermore, I will use my influence to affirm and edify the fellowship of this church with the district and the Baptist General Conference.

(Revised October 1998) Last Updated (Wednesday, Jun 20, 2007)

[Our church agrees with this Ministerial Code of Ethics in Converge National](#)