A Quick Guide to the Alliance Polity course

Who is it for?

The *Uniform Policy on Licensing and Certification* in section E3 of the *C&MA Manual* requires that *"All candidates for licensed ministry must provide evidence that they have successfully completed a course in Alliance Polity and distinctives as approved by Church Ministries."* This course is for candidates for licensing who have not graduated from an Alliance institution or Alliance graduates who have not taken a formal course in Alliance Polity. This includes students enrolled in the Ministerial Study Program and workers who are transferring into the C&MA from other denominations.

What does it do?

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

What do candidates need for the course?

Everything needed is contained within the online course location, or accessed from links on the site, so there is no need to purchase additional textbooks or resources. A candidate will need access to a computer or mobile computing device with internet access. 95% of the course can be completed using any standard Windows or Mac-based browser with *QuickTime* plug-in, including on an iPhone or iPad (due to publisher's restrictions, certain files in Module 3 are available only in *Flash*). A printer is helpful for some sections, but not required.

Modules 1 & 2 include significant portions of the CMA-DNA video clips. Candidates (especially those with slower internet connections) may prefer to purchase or borrow the *Alliance CORE Values* DVDs for Module 1 and the *Four-Fold Gospel* DVD for use during their study in Module 2.

What's in the course?

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

- Module 1: Alliance Core Values
- Module 2: Alliance Doctrine & Beliefs
- Module 3: History & Strategies of Alliance Missions
- Module 4: Organization & Polity of the Alliance

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

How does it work?

The course uses a variety of instructional methods:

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

How does the district oversee the course?

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

How do candidates sign up to take the course?

Ordering the course is done online through the National office registration system. Click here to register for the course. Online payment is through credit card or PayPal.

When a candidate registers and pays for the course, the candidate and their district-appointed mentor will receive (by email) a username and temporary password for the Church Ministries learning site (www.disciplesandleaders.com). They will be automatically enrolled in all four Modules of the course.

What is the cost?

Cost of the online course is $100.00

What help is available to the mentor in their role as advisor and evaluator?

The mentor has full access to all of the resources, assignments, lessons and course materials that the candidate uses, as well as to the discussion forums and grade-book. A separate, mentor-only resources section (called the *Mentor's Toolbox*) provides information on using the software, rubrics for evaluating assignments, and additional guidelines for projects. Lesson-by-lesson instructions and a video introduction to each module are in development.