



STARTING  
POINT



**PARADISE**  
ALLIANCE CHURCH

# **STARTING POINT**

Paradise Alliance Church

**YOU ARE LOVED**

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SLOGAN

You Are Loved!

MISSION

Helping every person  
FIND and FOLLOW Jesus

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# EQUIPPING PROCESS

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**BE** in His Presence  
-Discipleship

**WE** need each other  
-Fellowship

**HE** is the focus  
-Worship

**DO** His work His way  
-Ministry

**GO** -Mission

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## PRIORITIES

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1-CIRCLES

2-GROUPS

3-GATHERINGS

4-EVENTS

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# STATEMENT OF FAITH

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**There is one God**, Who is infinitely perfect, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ( Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 5:38. Matthew 28:19)

**Jesus Christ** is the true God and the true Human. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of Majesty on high as our great High Priest. He will come again to establish His kingdom, righteousness, and peace. (Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 1:36-38; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 2:9; Romans 5:9; Acts 2:23-24; Hebrews 8:1; Matthew 26:64)

**The Holy Spirit** is a divine person, sent to indwell, guide, teach, empower the believer, and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. (John 14:15-18; John 16:13; Acts 1:9; John 16:7-11)

**The Old and New Testaments**, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of humankind. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice. (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:15-16)

**Mankind** was originally created in the image and likeness of God: they fell through disobedience, incurring both physical and spiritual death. All humans are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The portion of the unrepentant and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment; and that of the believer in everlasting joy and bliss. (Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:23; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Revelation 21:8; Revelation 21:1-4)

**Salvation** has been provided through Jesus Christ for all people, and those who repent and believe in Him are born again of the Holy Spirit,

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# STATEMENT OF FAITH

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receive the gift of eternal life, and become the children of God. (Titus 3:4-7)

It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the **Holy Spirit** and be sanctified wholly, being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service. This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion. (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Acts 1:8; Romans 6:1-14)

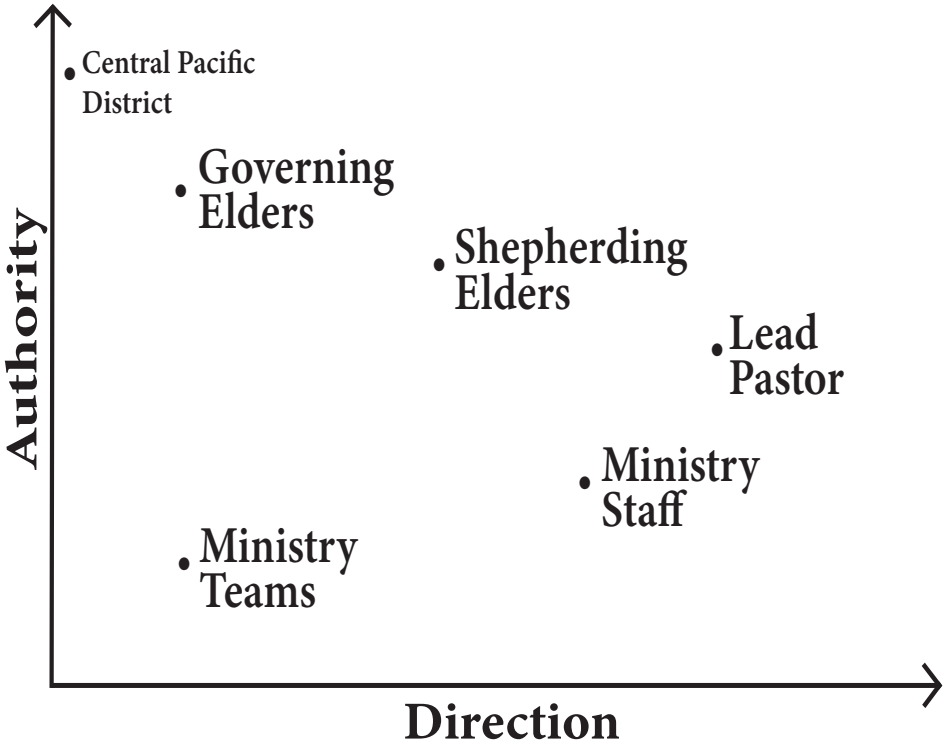
Provision is made in the **redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ** for the healing of the mortal body. Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age. (Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:13-16)

**The Church** consists of all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church, which has been commissioned by Him to go into the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations. The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Ephesians 1:22-23; Mathew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-47)

There shall be a **bodily resurrection** of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life; for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment. (1 Corinthians 5:20-24; John 5:28-29)

**The second coming** of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent and will be personal, visible, and pre-millennial. This is the believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth, which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service. (Hebrews 10:37; Luke 21:27; Titus 2:11-14)

# LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE



\*Church Members vote for Governing Elders and Shepherding Elders.  
Also participate in Ministry Teams.



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# HISTORY OF PAC

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Paradise Alliance Church began on May 16, 1954 as Faith Community Church. The first service was held by Dr. Frank Chessman in a little tin building on Neal Rd, also known as the Theatre on the Ridge. Shortly after, John Hadley took the position as the pastor of the church. On January 6, 1955, the church voted to become affiliated with The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, and the new name adopted was Christian and Missionary Church of Paradise.

Later that year, the church purchased a property on Elliott Road and volunteers from the church body began building the new church building at that location. On March 25, 1956, the Dedication Service was held. After 27 years, Paradise Alliance Church began to outgrow that facility after having to run three services to fit everyone in.

On November 18, 1983, 15 acres was purchased on Clark Road. The first service at this new property was held in 1985 by the lead pastor, Pastor Roy Price in the Family Life Center. In 1990, phase 2 of construction began with the construction of the new auditorium complete with a lobby, restrooms and a choir room. On December 22, 1996, our first service in the new auditorium was held by Pastor Brian Long. Since then, Pastor Larry Shelton and Pastor Josh Gallagher have led the church until today.

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# WHAT IS THE CMA

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The Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA or CMA) is a global “movement,” begun in the late 19th century in New York, focused on fulfilling the Great Commission through the local church. As of 1974 the Christian and Missionary Alliance is also officially a denomination, though it retains its focus on overseas mission and planting churches both overseas and domestically in the US.

The Alliance focuses not only on the “doing” aspects of the Christian life but also on the “being” aspect. Fulfilling the Great Commission requires both knowing God relationally and serving others.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance’s vision for ministry is “We believe that God’s instrument to complete this mission is His Church. That’s why we focus our efforts and resources into developing dynamic, healthy local churches in the United States and across the world. To accomplish the vision, we will develop healthy people (fully devoted followers of Christ), who will build these churches, serving as ministry centers to successfully win the lost. Our of these ministry centers and churches will flow international workers committed to pushing back the darkness in areas where unengaged, unreached people groups abound.”

For more, visit: [cmalliance.org/who-we-are/our-story/](http://cmalliance.org/who-we-are/our-story/)

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# MEMBERSHIP

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## WHAT IS MEMBERSHIP?

Membership is a commitment to a local body of believers for the specific and ordained purpose of being joined together. Members declare, through commitments made in the membership process, to follow Christ, be unified with the rest of the body and to live out the fruit of the Spirit. They are voluntarily placing themselves under the spiritual authority of the leadership of that church.

It is common in our culture today for people to hop from church to church while never submitting to the care of elders while lacking commitment to a group of fellow believers. They are cut off from the blessings that follow this commitment. Membership is the formal declaration that we are not alone, but that we are a part of the work of Christ through his local and universal church.

While the Bible doesn't directly talk about the concept of church membership, the early church saw growth as people were saved and were "added" to their numbers daily (Acts 2:41-47). Hebrews 13:17 instructs, "Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls..." Who is a pastor responsible for? Not Christians around the world, but for those who are under their direct care. Through the New Testament we read that we are to be part of the body (local) where Christ is the head and with all our given gifts we serve one another (Eph 2:21, 1 Cor 12). The metaphor of being part of the "body" can easily be transferred to the concept of being a "member".

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# MEMBERSHIP

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## WHY IS MEMBERSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

### **1 It calls you to Commitment**

As a committed member of the church, you will be called to encourage, build up, strengthen, serve and pray for other believers that belong to PAC. Being a part of the church community will bring us together as we look towards being an “others” focused family.

### **2 Something Bigger than Yourself**

God’s plan for humanity is for people to know Him and to know that they are loved by Him. This is a work that has been entrusted to us as Christ representatives. Membership calls us to take this calling serious within the church and the community around us.

### **3 Shaping the Future of the church through Voting**

It is the responsibility of all members to prayerfully consider who is qualified and fit for leadership roles within this church. Every member will be called annually to vote on the direction of the church.

### **4 Personal Development**

Membership shows the validity of your profession of faith through the process of examination. From here, the desire is for all members to be discipled for the purpose of being leaders among the rest of the church. We want to see all members using their gifts to build the church.

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# MEMBERSHIP

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## REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBERSHIP

### Salvation Experience

Salvation is a work of God available to us by the saving work of Jesus on the cross. This pays the penalty of our sins and rescues us from eternal death. Salvation, the forgiveness of sins, is available to anyone who will trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

**-Jesus Christ is the only way to receive salvation.**

*I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through ME. - John 14:6*

**-Sin separates us from a Holy God, we are hopeless**

*For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God - Romans 3:23; For the wages of sin is death - Romans 6:23*

**-Christ, paid the penalty of my sin, unconditionally**

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us - Romans 5:8*

**-We must trust and surrender to Jesus as Lord**

*If you declare with your mouth "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved - Romans 10:9-10*

**-Our assurance of salvation is through Jesus**

*For whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord will be saved - Romans 10:13*

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# MEMBERSHIP

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## REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBERSHIP

### Baptism Experience

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord for those who have come to faith in Jesus Christ in order to express their union with Christ. This is done by being immersed in water symbolizing our partnership with Him in his death and resurrection, done in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is a symbol of the death to your old life of unbelief and the new creation we are through Christ. The significance of this act comes by the proclamation of Jesus as the Lord of your life in front of many witnesses (church family) and your desire to follow Him for the rest of your life.

### Baptism is an ordinance of Christ

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you - Matthew 28:19-20*

### Baptism is a union with Christ and an expression of faith

*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. - Romans 6:3-4*

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# MEMBERSHIP

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## REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBERSHIP

### **I will seek to be a participant in the unity of the church.**

I know there is no perfect pastor, staff, members or attenders. I will follow the principals of scripture and do all I can to keep the church united for the sake of the gospel. This is done with humility, gentleness, patience and love.

### **I will be a faithful attender**

I will not only come as often as I am able, but I will not let my attendance be rooted in my preferences and desires. Not only do I need to be there for my growth, but other people need me for encouragement and guidance.

### **I will pray for the leadership of the church regularly**

I will pray for God's strength for them and their families regularly. They need, through our prayers, renewed energy, the ability to see God's direction, strength and courage as they look to lead this body.

### **I will be a functioning member of the body**

I will do my best to use the gifts and abilities given to me by God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to give, serve, minister, evangelize, study and be a blessing to others.

# MEMBERSHIP

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

**BE** in His presence daily

- Join a Circle Group
- Read and Pray daily

**WE** need each other

- Join a Small Group

**HE** is the focus

- Attend Sunday Morning experiences

**DO** His work His way

- Service Opportunities

**GO** Mission (local)

- Outreach Events
- Community Events
- Outreach

### **Tithe/Offering**

The Bible tells us that tithing is a way to show that we trust God with our lives and our finances. God doesn't need our money, but he wants our obedience and our worship. Do you trust God to meet your needs? Tithing is our way of expressing this trust.

Giving encourages us to be grateful. We are told to give with a generous spirit under no obligation.



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# MEMBERSHIP

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## RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

### **Nominations**

Nominees can be elected for a Governing Elder or a Shepherding Elder position. All nominees must be regular givers and active male church members in good standing for at least six (6) months prior to election. A member of the congregation may nominate another member to be considered for an elected board position. The member wishing to place someone in nomination must first contact and obtain permission from the person to be nominated and receive their consent that they are willing to uphold the standards of office. The member wishing to place a name in nomination will then submit the name to the Nominating Committee in writing in the month of April. Nominees running for election are announced during the month of May.

### **Voting**

Qualifying nominees will be placed on the official ballot. Voting will occur the first two (2) weeks of June. The official ballot will contain the names as presented for each position by the Nominating Committee and Governing Elder. Only members of the congregation can participate in voting.

Being a member means active participation in finding nominees who are qualified spiritual leaders and being a part of the voting process.

# RESOURCES

## READING MATERIALS

- Free Bibles available at the front office
- New Christians Handbook available
- I Am A Church Member book available

## RIGHT NOW MEDIA

- Library of Bible studies, tools, children's programs, and much more



## TRAINING VIDEOS

- [paradisecma.org/starting-point](http://paradisecma.org/starting-point)

## CHURCH CENTER APP

- Get connected to your church family. Service times, easy giving, community connection, kid pre-check in, online directory, group communication, information hub and more.



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# MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE

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Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of Paradise Alliance Church. This is a step towards a greater discipleship journey, and we couldn't be more excited to be a part of that journey alongside you.

The following is a list of requirements for church membership. These will have to be true in order to be considered a member. This allows our church membership to experience unity in our shared beliefs while also protecting the reputation of the church.

Should any of these criteria not be met before attending the Starting Point class, this will not be the end of the line. We would love to work with you through whatever journey is needed in order to bring you through the membership process.

- I have put my faith in Jesus Christ as my savior. I repented of my sin and trust him as the Lord of my life.
- I have been baptized after my salvation, by water, under the authority of the local church.
- I have read and agree with the requirements of membership at Paradise Alliance Church and are committed to follow it. I will also work toward fulfilling the recommendations listed in this pamphlet.
- I agree to support Paradise Alliance Church in its mission to help everyone find and follow Jesus, and I agree that this starts with me.

# WHAT IS NEXT

Now that you have completed the first stage of the Starting Point process, you will have time to evaluate if membership at Paradise Alliance Church is for you at this time. Maybe some of the requirements need to be met, or you need some time to reflect on what this church holds as important.

## **If you are ready to move ahead:**

1- Sign the Membership Application. Give as much information as possible so we can let the Elders know about you for the next steps. Questions you may have are key for this step.

2- Spend some time looking into the tenets of the pledge you will be signing.

3- We recommend reading, *I am a Church Member*, by Thom S. Rainer. This will help you be effective in your new role.

4- Come next Sunday for a meeting with an Elder of this church. In this meeting you will be asked to share your testimony. A testimony is simply when and how you were saved, as well as, what was your life like before and after that event. You will also have the opportunity to get answers to questions you may have about the church and what we hold to be true.

5- The Membership Pledge will be signed by you and the Elder who interviewed you.

# TESTIMONY OUTLINE

What was life like before you received Christ?

When did you receive Christ and what were the circumstances surrounding that time/event?

How did this event change you to more reflect Christ?  
What is different?

What verse has been meaningful to you since becoming a follower of Christ?



**YOU ARE LOVED**