

THE ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS: Gospel Partners

“For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end.” (Hebrews 3:14)

As one of the emerging ecclesiastical bodies at the turn of the 21st century, the Alliance of Baptists is both distinctively Baptist and deliberately ecumenical. Since our founding in 1987, we in the Alliance have reaffirmed the historic Baptist principles of soul liberty, congregational freedom, and religious liberty for all. And in gratitude and humility we have sought to find our place in the larger body of Jesus Christ, the church universal.

We are a people on mission, seeking and nurturing partnerships in the gospel both at home and abroad. Within the Baptist denomination, we enjoy significant partnerships with the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. and the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. We are partners in a principled commitment to religious liberty with the Baptist Joint Committee and in a concerted witness to peace and justice with the Baptist Peace Fellowship. In the larger church, the Alliance is a member body of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and is engaged in a partnership in mission and ministry with the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Our international partnerships include the Fraternity of Baptist Churches of Cuba (Fraternidad de Iglesias Bautistas de Cuba), Baptist Convention of Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka Baptist Union, and Atlantic

Baptist Fellowship (Canada), among others. Together with these partners, we seek to live into one of our key commitments, “the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ and the calling of God to all peoples to repentance and faith, reconciliation and hope, social and economic justice.”

We are an inclusive people. From our founding forward, we have sought to be partners with women in the ministries of the church, both lay and ordained, and thus have championed women in the exercise of all their spiritual gifts. And beginning in 1992, we began a process of discernment that led the Alliance in 1995 to declare itself as welcoming and affirming of gays and lesbians, bisexual and transgender persons. We believe that “*what God has made clean, (we) must not call profane.*” (Acts 10:15)

We are a passionate people. We are passionate about worship when we gather and about creating a climate of acceptance in our midst. We are passionate about the poor and the oppressed. We are passionate about creation and all of God’s creatures, both great and small. We are passionate about exercising the divine obligation upon us to declare the ways of God to the powers of this world, and with the ancient Hebrew prophet say, “*But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.*” (Amos 5:24)

In short, the Alliance of Baptists seeks to conserve the best of our Christian heritage while affirming the essential liberality of the gospel of our Savior, Jesus the Christ, who “*came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*” (John 10:10)

WHAT WE OFFER OUR MEMBERS AND AFFILIATED CONGREGATIONS

- Subscription to *connections*, the monthly newsletter of the Alliance of Baptists
- Placement assistance to affiliated congregations and individual members
- Assistance in ordination of clergy
- Registry of ordained clergy to certify standing
- Endorsement of chaplains and pastoral counselors in all settings
- Access to retirement plans and insurance benefits for churches and their staffs
- International mission partnerships
- Domestic mission partnerships
- Involvement in ecumenical affairs
- Interfaith dialogue
- Public witness to religious liberty, peace and justice
- Curriculum resources on a variety of topics

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM OUR MEMBERS AND AFFILIATED CONGREGATIONS

- Regular contributions to operating budget (churches)
- Annual membership renewal (individuals)
- Contributions to Alliance Mission Offering (churches and individuals)
- Participation in Annual Convocation and Annual Meeting, as able (individual members and members of affiliated congregations are eligible to vote in Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with Convocation)
- Ongoing critique of our organizational effectiveness
- Prayers for the Alliance and our partners in mission and ministry at home and abroad



BECOME OUR PARTNER IN THE GOSPEL

Would you consider completing the membership form on the other side of this page to join us as we seek and nurture partnerships in the gospel both at home and abroad?

JOIN THE ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS TODAY

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JOIN US TODAY

Your partnership with the Alliance is welcomed. Please fill out and return the following information as applicable:

Enclosed is my membership check, renewable annually:

- \$ 40 Individual
- \$ 60 Family
- \$ 125 Sustaining
- \$ 20 Student/Low Income

Name _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Our church wishes to affiliate with the Alliance. We will contribute to the operating budget as follows:

- \$ Monthly
- \$ Quarterly
- \$ Semiannually
- \$ Annually
- We will support the Alliance Mission Offering

Church _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Website _____

Please send completed form and check to:

The Alliance of Baptists
1328 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036



THE ALLIANCE COVENANT

(The Alliance Covenant, adopted in 1987, is our founding statement of principles.)

In a time when historic Baptist principles, freedoms, and traditions need a clear voice, and in our personal and corporate response to the call of God in Jesus Christ to be disciples and servants in the world, we commit ourselves to:

1. The freedom of the individual, led by God's Spirit within the family of faith, to read and interpret the Scriptures, relying on the historical understanding by the church and on the best methods of modern biblical study.
2. The freedom of the local church under the authority of Jesus Christ to shape its own life and mission, call its own leadership, and ordain whom it perceives as gifted for ministry, male or female.
3. The larger body of Jesus Christ, expressed in various Christian traditions, and to a cooperation with believers everywhere in giving full expression to the Gospel.
4. The servant role of leadership within the church, following the model of our Servant Lord, and to full partnership of all of God's people in mission and ministry.
5. Theological education in congregations, colleges, and seminaries characterized by reverence for biblical authority and respect for open inquiry and responsible scholarship.
6. The proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ and the calling of God to all peoples to repentance and faith, reconciliation and hope, social and economic justice.
7. The principle of a free church in a free state and the opposition to any effort either by church or state to use the other for its own purposes.

THE ALLIANCE MISSION

(The Alliance Mission was adopted in 1998 as a statement to guide our future actions.)

To keep faith with our Covenant, we:

1. Make the worship of God primary in all our gatherings.
2. Foster relationships within the Alliance and with other people of faith.
3. Create places of refuge and renewal for those who are wounded or ignored by the church.
4. Side with those who are poor.
5. Pursue justice with and for those who are oppressed.
6. Care for the earth.
7. Work for peace.
8. Honor wisdom and lifelong learning.
9. Hold ourselves accountable for equity, collegiality, and diversity.



THE ALLIANCE OF BAPTISTS

1328 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 745-7609

Tollfree: (866) 745-7609

Fax: (202) 745-0023

E-Mail: info@allianceofbaptists.org

Website: www.AllianceofBaptists.org

GOSPEL PARTNERS



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