

## CHI ALPHA CAMPUS MINISTRIES STATEMENTS

<b>VISION STATEMENT</b>	We see a Spirit-empowered, diverse community of believers on university campuses, declaring in word and lifestyle their faith in Jesus Christ, equipped to fulfill their purpose in God’s global plan.																
<b>MISSION STATEMENT</b>	Chi Alpha’s mission is to reconcile students to Christ, equipping them through communities of prayer, worship, discipleship, fellowship, and mission to transform the university, the marketplace and the world.																
<b>FAITH STATEMENT</b>	<p>We will adhere to a biblical and Pentecostal theology in keeping with The General Council of the Assemblies of God Statement of Fundamental Truths. We believe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative written Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16).</li> <li>• There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19).</li> <li>• In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His personal future return to His earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years (John 1:1).</li> <li>• In the blessed hope — the rapture of the Church at Christ’s coming (Titus 2:13).</li> <li>• The only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ (John 14:6).</li> <li>• Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation (Titus 3:5).</li> <li>• In water baptism by immersion (Matthew 28:19).</li> <li>• The redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer (1 Peter 2:24).</li> <li>• The baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it.</li> <li>• In the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life (Galatians 5:16-25).</li> <li>• In the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation (Revelation 20:11-15).</li> </ul>																
<b>RELATIONSHIP STATEMENT</b>	<p>We require yearly chartering and affiliation, accountability to one another and to work jointly to impact the college and university community.</p> <p>Use of the Chi Alpha Campus Ministries or Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship name or the claim to relationship with the national organization of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries will be limited to groups that are chartered and leaders who have affiliated each school year.</p>																
<b>AFFILIATED LEADER’S FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT</b>	<p>We require all Chi Alpha personnel to give one-half of their tithes to the National Office as stated in the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.</p> <p><b>Made Payable to: Chi Alpha Leaders Half Tithes with Account # 702-053 noted.</b></p>																
<b>GROUP’S FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT</b>	<p><b>Option One:</b> We require Chi Alpha groups to contribute five percent of their monthly group income to Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A. (The intent is 5% of non-designated group offerings or fund raising, excluding money raised for missions trips, evangelism, and staff salary.)</p> <p><b>Option Two:</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Group Size</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Suggested Donation/ Calendar Year</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Group Size</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Suggested Donation/ Calendar Year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1-25</td> <td>\$150.00</td> <td>101-200</td> <td>\$900.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26-50</td> <td>\$300.00</td> <td>201-300</td> <td>\$1200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>51-100</td> <td>\$600.00</td> <td>300 &amp; UP</td> <td>\$1500.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Option Three:</b> \$10.00 per student per semester involved regularly in ministry or \$6.50 per student per quarter.</p> <p><b>Disclaimer:</b> We urge all ministries to receive student offerings as part of the discipleship process. We understand that some are unable to do so (i.e. pioneering, school/church policy). <b>Made payable to: Chi Alpha Group Giving with account #702-057 noted.</b></p>	Group Size	Suggested Donation/ Calendar Year	Group Size	Suggested Donation/ Calendar Year	1-25	\$150.00	101-200	\$900.00	26-50	\$300.00	201-300	\$1200.00	51-100	\$600.00	300 & UP	\$1500.00
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I release to Chi Alpha the right to utilize my photo or a video during the current academic year. I understand that Chi Alpha will utilize only tasteful and appropriate images that help communicate the vision, values and mission of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A. If you do not wish to provide Chi Alpha with a photo/video release during the current academic year, please e-mail us at [chialpha@ag.org](mailto:chialpha@ag.org).

# ***Chi Alpha Campus Ministries***

## The Scriptural Foundations of Our Faith and Our Common Convictions

### What is Chi Alpha?

Chi Alpha is a national organization of students in higher education who unite to express the person and claims of Jesus Christ to their campus communities and call others into relationship with Him.<sup>i</sup>

### Why does Chi Alpha exist and what is the meaning of its name?

Chi Alpha is a mission agency of the Assemblies of God existing to fulfill Christ's Great Commission on the college and university campus. We find our identity and task in the Apostle Paul's words, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors...we implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20).<sup>ii</sup> Inspired by this verse we transliterated the first letters of the English words "Christ's Ambassadors" into the Greek letters "Chi" and "Alpha."

### What does Chi Alpha seek to be in order to do this?

We stated in 1977, "As ministers of reconciliation, we are a community of some of God's college-age people: a community of worship, a community of prayer, a community of fellowship, a community of discipleship, and a community of witness [now mission]. We include the concept of "community" in all of these because of the high priority we put on coming together as a group for Biblically commanded activity. We will use the phrase 'gathered people of God on campus' to stress our position that we can be more visible and effective as a group than as isolated individuals."<sup>iii</sup>

### What is our strategy?

Our primary strategy is to work toward the building of a group or community of people who share these ideals. We believe the most fertile atmosphere for people to come to faith and maturity in Christ is warm exposure to a group of people fervently committed to the God of the Bible, to one another, and to the task of evangelizing the campus. As a worshipping, praying, loving, discipling, witnessing community, [we] demonstrate the kingdom of God and most effectively enculturate others in it.<sup>iv</sup>

### What is our Vision Statement?

We are a Spirit-empowered, diverse community of believers on university campuses, declaring in word and lifestyle our faith in Jesus Christ, equipped to fulfill our purpose in God's global plan.<sup>v</sup>

### What is our Mission Statement?

We reconcile students to Christ, equipping them through Spirit-filled communities of prayer, worship, fellowship, discipleship and mission to transform the university, the marketplace and the world.<sup>vi</sup>

### What do we believe?

In light of the 2,000-year history of the Christian Church, Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, under the leadership of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, perceives itself as conforming to the orthodox, mainstream beliefs of the Church as best stated in the conventionally accepted creeds.<sup>vii</sup> In particular, we accept the Nicene Creed, first adopted in 325 A.D., amended in 381 A.D. The Nicene Creed affirms the Triune Godhead, God as Creator, the virgin birth of Jesus, salvation, the sinfulness of persons, the kingly reign of God, the second advent of Christ, and the final judgment, giving only these as examples. We subscribe to a literal, straightforward and plain interpretation of the Nicene Creed.<sup>viii</sup> An English translation of the 381 A.D. Nicene Creed reads as follows:

*I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.*

*I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.*

*For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.*

*I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.<sup>ix</sup>*

Chi Alpha Campus Ministries finds its origins, endorsement and organizational accountability as the university ministry of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.<sup>x</sup> Our ministerial staff members are credentialed and endorsed ministers with the Assemblies of God. We subscribe to the **16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God**. The 16 Fundamental Truths restate in contemporary terms the truths of the Nicene Creed, and they also articulate the distinctive truths that characterize the worldwide ministry of the Assemblies of God. The **16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God** read as follows:

1. WE BELIEVE...**The Scriptures are Inspired by God** and declare His design and plan for mankind.
2. WE BELIEVE...**There is only One True God**—revealed in three persons...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (commonly known as the Trinity).
3. WE BELIEVE...**In the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**. As God's son Jesus was both human and divine.
4. WE BELIEVE...though originally good, **Man Willingly Fell to Sin**—ushering evil and death, both physical and spiritual, into the world.
5. WE BELIEVE...**Every Person Can Have Restored Fellowship with God Through 'Salvation'** (accepting Christ's offer of forgiveness for sin). [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the A/G]
6. WE BELIEVE...and practice two ordinances—(1) **Water Baptism by Immersion** after repenting of one's sins and receiving Christ's gift of salvation, and (2) **Holy Communion** (the Lord's Supper) as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's suffering and death for our salvation.
7. WE BELIEVE...**the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a Special Experience Following Salvation** that empowers believers for witnessing and effective service, just as it did in New Testament times. [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the A/G]
8. WE BELIEVE... **The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is 'Speaking in Tongues,'** as experienced on the Day of Pentecost and referenced throughout Acts and the Epistles.

9. WE BELIEVE...Sanctification Initially Occurs at Salvation and is not only a declaration that a believer is holy, but also a progressive lifelong process of separating from evil as believers continually draw closer to God and become more Christ-like.
10. WE BELIEVE...The Church has a Mission to seek and save all who are lost in sin. We believe ‘the Church’ is the Body of Christ and consists of the people who, throughout time, have accepted God’s offer of redemption (regardless of religious denomination) through the sacrificial death of His son Jesus Christ.
11. WE BELIEVE...A Divinely Called and Scripturally Ordained Leadership Ministry Serves the Church. The Bible teaches that each of us under leadership must commit ourselves to reach others for Christ, to worship Him with other believers, and to build up or edify the body of believers—the Church.
12. WE BELIEVE...Divine Healing of the Sick is a Privilege for Christians Today and is provided for in Christ’s atonement (His sacrificial death on the cross for our sins). [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the A/G]
13. WE BELIEVE...in The Blessed Hope—When Jesus Raptures His Church Prior to His Return to Earth (the second coming). At this future moment in time all believers who have died will rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air, and Christians who are alive will be caught up with them, to be with the Lord forever. [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the A/G]
14. WE BELIEVE...in The Millennial Reign of Christ when Jesus returns with His saints at His second coming and begins His benevolent rule over earth for 1,000 years. At that time many in the nation of Israel will recognize and accept Him as the Messiah, the Savior who died for them and all mankind.
15. WE BELIEVE...A Final Judgment Will Take Place for those who have rejected Christ. They will be judged for their sin and consigned to eternal punishment in a punishing lake of fire.
16. WE BELIEVE...and look forward to the perfect New Heavens and a New Earth that Christ is preparing for all people, of all time, who have accepted Him. We will live and dwell with Him there forever following His millennial reign on Earth. ‘And so shall we forever be with the Lord!’

In summary, Chi Alpha Campus Ministries is rooted within the historic Church and in agreement with The General Council of the Assemblies of God as we seek to fulfill our purpose as Christ-followers best described in Scripture and through the creeds of the Church.

Moreover, we agree the chief end of all persons is “To glorify God and to enjoy him forever,”<sup>xi</sup> commonly referred to by the theological term “Gloria Dei.” Secondly, we agree the intention of God is that all persons and all creation should give glory to Him. For this reason men and women are uniquely made in the image of God to give Him glory, commonly referred to by the theological term “Imago Dei.” And thirdly, we agree the mission of the Church is to restore the damaged Imago Dei in all persons, commonly referred to by the theological term “Missio Dei.”

We believe all persons are damaged image bearers, characterized by broken relationships, corrupted lifestyles, and abuse of power. The Apostle Paul describes all sin as a falling short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23; cf. Romans 1:23; 3:7; 5:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18), and the image of God in all persons needs restoration. We believe the Missio Dei (mission of God) seeks to renovate and restore the Imago Dei (image of God), in order that all persons may once again be in a restored relationship to God by which they reflect the Gloria Dei (glory of God).

The following are “Scriptural Foundations of Faith and Common Convictions of Chi Alpha Campus Ministries” as we serve within the context of the American college and university world. We affirm the Nicene Creed and the

16 Fundamental Truths, and we aspire to bring glory to God (Gloria Dei), as we progressively conform to God’s design for us as image-bearers (Imago Dei), and as we are implored by Jesus Christ (Missio Dei) to tell others to be reconciled to God.

Chi Alpha Campus Ministries aspires to reflect the glory of God (Gloria Dei) within university communities.	
1	The glory of God is reflected in the character and nature of God, His only begotten Son, and should be reflected in the lives of people. The heavens declare, <i>“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory”</i> (Isaiah 6:3). God is gloriously majestic, full of splendor, entitled to honor, spotless in reputation, and immeasurable in worth. <i>“The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all peoples see his glory”</i> (Psalm 97:6). The incarnate God-man, Jesus Christ, is the perfect reflection of God’s glory, <i>“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth”</i> (John 1:14). All persons are made in the image of God, possessing a glory, for we are created to <i>“Declare his glory among the nations,”</i> and to <i>“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name”</i> (Psalm 96:3a, 8a). Our entire lives should be lived for God’s glory (1 Corinthians 10:31).
2	The glory of God is reflected in His triune nature (1 Thessalonians 1:2-5). <sup>xii</sup> God is unique in His divine three-in-oneness, expressed in His eternal coexistence as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Holy Bible teaches there is one God revealed as the “invisible Father (from whom all revelation proceeds), the Son (who mediates and objectively incarnates that revelation in a historical manifestation) and the Holy Spirit (who is divinely outpoured and subjectively applies that revelation to all persons).” <sup>xiii</sup> The triune nature of God is both glorious and indescribable.
3	The glory of God is reflected in all He has made. Genesis 1 describes the creation of the universe, and God declares His creation is <i>“good.”</i> It further describes the highest form of creation, that of the male and female persons, who are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). The prophet Isaiah says of God’s creation, <i>“It is I who made the earth and created mankind on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts”</i> (Isaiah 45:12). He further states humankind is created to communicate meaningfully with God, <i>“the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise”</i> (Isaiah 43:21). When people accept God’s offer of salvation, they become new creations, <i>“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them”</i> (2 Corinthians 5:17-19a).
4	The glory of God is articulated to us in His holy Scriptures. Chi Alpha accepts The Holy Bible as our ultimate authority and guide for belief and practice. We interpret and apply the truths of Scripture utilizing a historical-grammatical hermeneutic that stresses the importance of the original intent of the biblical writer and seeks to understand the Bible in the light of its historical and literary context. <sup>xiv</sup> <i>“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”</i> (2 Timothy 3:16-17). <sup>xv</sup>
5	The glory of God is revealed in Christ’s saving power. Chi Alpha proclaims Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, because <i>“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”</i> (Romans 3:23). Jesus as Savior is the gospel we proclaim: Jesus proclaimed the coming of the kingdom of God to mankind (Mark 1:14-15), His atoning death on the cross and His resurrection to eternal life (Romans 6:8-10) serve to restore people’s relationship to God (Romans 6:11) when people by faith through grace (Ephesians 2:8-10) accept His offer of the forgiveness of sin (Ephesians 1:7-8). <i>“For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life. Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation”</i> (Romans 5:10-11).

6	The glory of God is revealed in Christ's healing power. Chi Alpha proclaims Jesus Christ is a Healer of our bodies, our minds, and our souls <sup>xvi</sup> (Matthew 4:23-25, Matthew 9:32-33, Luke 4:18, 2 Corinthians 10:3-6). <i>"People brought all their sick to him and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed"</i> (Matthew 14:35b-36). <i>"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed"</i> (James 5:14-16a).
7	The glory of God is revealed in Christ's sending the Holy Spirit to us. Chi Alpha proclaims Jesus Christ is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit <sup>xvii</sup> who equips us for three purposes: first, the Holy Spirit empowers us to be witnesses to the truth of the gospel (Acts 2:1-4), second, the Holy Spirit employs us in the operation of the Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Ephesians 4:11-16, Romans 12:1-8), and third, the Holy Spirit enables us to live a consistent demonstration of the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-25).
8	The glory of God will undeniably be revealed in Christ's second advent. Chi Alpha proclaims Jesus Christ will return as King of all Kings, and <i>"all who have this hope in him purifies themselves, just as he is pure"</i> (1 John 3:3). <i>"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words"</i> (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).
9	The glory of God is revealed in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Chi Alpha proclaims Jesus Christ as Savior, Healer, Baptizer, and Returning King because Jesus restores the image of God in all people who are broken, alienated, without hope, and overwhelmed by sin back to God the Father (Isaiah 61:1-3, Luke 4:14-21, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). All people may know this restoration when they confess their sins and receive the forgiveness of sins, because Jesus <i>"is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness"</i> (1 John 1:9b).
Chi Alpha Campus Ministries aspires to give glory to God (Gloria Dei) by offering reconciliation to Christ, thus restoring the fractured image of God (Imago Dei) in the lives of people within university communities.	
10	As image bearers who humbly follow Jesus Christ, we welcome any person into fellowship with us. All persons may be a general member of a Chi Alpha chapter, in accordance with university guidelines, be they student, faculty, administrative official or staff. Chi Alpha welcomes everyone to attend and participate in Chi Alpha group programs and events, i.e. main meetings, small groups, retreats, trips, and social and service activities. A person is welcomed as a general member even if he/she does not subscribe to the beliefs of Chi Alpha or chooses not to accept Christ. We want everyone to have the opportunity to hear, understand, and receive the gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 9:35-37, Luke 9:46-48).
11	As image bearers who humbly follow Christ, we equip students to follow Christ faithfully. <i>"It is our conviction that discipling is best accomplished in the relational context of the matured believer helping to nurture younger members of the community in small group situations, even as Jesus disciplined the Twelve, and as the disciples went from house to house. By this process each member is thus given the basic knowledge and skills necessary to grow toward maturity in Christ and is equipped for the work of the ministry"</i> (Ephesians 4:11-16). <sup>xviii</sup>

12	<p>As image bearers who humbly follow Christ, we are called to reflect His character and nature to the world which includes affirming student leaders to be Christian role models characterized by being morally upright (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8), exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), showing mutual love (1 John 4:7-12), winning the respect of others (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12), pursuing the unity of the faith in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-6), impeding and preventing disunity (1 Corinthians 1:10, 12:21-26), proclaiming the truth of the gospel (2 Timothy 4:1-5), discipling the faithful (2 Timothy 2:2), and holding to our foundational truths (Titus 1:9). We desire student leaders to grow in Godly character, heart, and vision, along with being committed to the kingdom of God, and growing in ministry skills.<sup>xix</sup></p> <p>Chi Alpha relies on our student leaders to the best of their ability to lead the student group in our five-fold Philosophy of Ministry: that is to establish on the college campus a student community of worship, prayer, fellowship, discipleship and mission.<sup>xx</sup></p>
13	<p>As image bearers who humbly follow Christ and who seek to live for the glory of God, we believe within the Holy Bible God reveals an eternal, principled approach to life for His followers. We further believe as society ebbs and flows with continual change, that God’s timeless values are essential, so we encourage students to lead a divinely inspired, principle-driven life. Although we do not expect moral perfection from anyone especially students, we do anticipate the transformative work of the gospel to make us progressively more like Christ. We affirm the power of the gospel to restore everyone who seeks to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, and the power to be reconciled one to another. No sin stands outside of God’s grace to forgive. <i>“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked...but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers”</i> (Psalm 1:1a, 2-3) (cf. Exodus 20:1-17, 15:1-5, Psalm 92:12-15, Matthew 5:1 – 7:29, Romans 12:9-21, Colossians 3:12-17, 2 Peter 1:3-11).</p>
14	<p>As image bearers who humbly follow Christ, we affirm God’s design for male and female sexuality that reflects His image. We believe God created every person as a male or as a female, <i>“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them”</i><sup>xxi</sup> (Genesis 1:27). This means every man and woman is an image-bearer of the triune God and crowned with dignity. We believe that every person should embrace, not reject, their God-given sex. We believe God’s intention for a sexual relationship is to be between a husband and a wife in the lifelong covenant of marriage. Every other sexual relationship beyond this is outside of God’s design and is not in keeping with God’s original plan for humanity (cf. Genesis 2:18, 24-25, Matthew 19:4-6, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Ephesians 5:25-31).</p>
15	<p>As image bearers who humbly follow Christ, we believe Jesus Christ modeled and affirmed life as a single person. Moreover, Jesus’ life affirms celibacy for the single person, and abstinence from sexual intercourse if or until the single person marries (Matthew 19:11-12). We offer to every person an authentic and honest community whereby all persons, single and married, may find restoration from broken relationships within the community of Christ on campus.</p>
16	<p>As image bearers who humbly follow Christ, we affirm all men and women on campus should treat one another with respect, admiration, gentleness and love; safeguarding one another from harm.<sup>xxii</sup> In every relationship we seek to apply the Golden Rule, <i>“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you”</i> (Matthew 7:12), and the law of love, <i>“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails”</i> (1 Corinthians 13:6-8a). <i>“For he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones”</i> (Proverbs 2:8).</p>

17	As image bearers who humbly follow Christ, we are called to reflect His character and nature to the world which includes valuing integrity <sup>xxiii</sup> and humility: integrity in academics, honesty in representing oneself, love when telling the truth, honor when relating to authority figures, and keeping the unity of the Spirit. <i>“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ... then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others”</i> (Philippians 2:1a, 2-4). <sup>xxiv</sup>
18	As image bearers who humbly follow Christ, we value the image of God in every human being regardless of racial, ethnic, biological sex, religious, or socio-economic status. <sup>xxv</sup> “Chi Alpha seeks to be an accurate representation of Christ’s people to the campus in: its diverse ethnic makeup (Rev. 7:9), its supernatural oneness (Gal. 3:28), its Jesus-centered unity (John 17:21), its kingdom-ethic witness (Mt 5:1-15, Luke 4:18-19) and its reconciliation ministry (2 Cor. 5: 16-21, Eph. 2:14-22).” <sup>xxvi</sup> On the campus we seek to build a diverse community of Christ followers who reflect heaven’s reality: <i>“... (Jesus) purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God...”</i> (Revelation 5:9b-10a).
19	As image bearers who humbly follow Christ, we value the image of God in students who battle addiction. We seek to minister to students caught in addictive behaviors, i.e. abuse of alcohol, substance abuse, eating disorders, sexual addiction including pornography, and self-harm. <sup>xxvii</sup> We offer friendship, prayer, and genuine love as a support system to the addicted student seeking help (Luke 10:25-37).
20	As image bearers who humbly follow Christ, we value the image of God in every human from conception until natural death, which reflects the character and nature of the Creator of all life. <sup>xxviii</sup> <i>“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”</i> (Psalm 139:13-16).
21	As image bearers who humbly follow Christ, and in obedience to the mission of God (Missio Dei) we are committed to love and willingly serve the genuine needs of the international students that grace our university campuses. <sup>xxix</sup> “We remember [international students] are real people with real needs... Some day they will be influencing and shaping the course of their home countries. We can make a difference in their lives and consequently in the future of the world. Some will listen to the gospel; many will not! Some will decide to follow Jesus; others will only want our friendship. Their response is not the primary issue! We simply are to obey the clear commandment of God to love them unconditionally.” <sup>xxx</sup> <i>“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself...”</i> (Leviticus 19:33-34). <i>“For the Lord your God... loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing”</i> (Deuteronomy 10:17a, 18b).
Chi Alpha Campus Ministries affirms the mission of God (Missio Dei) and seeks to renovate and restore the fractured image of God (Imago Dei), in order that all persons may once again be in a restored relationship with God by which they bring and reflect the glory of God (Gloria Dei).	
22	In obedience to the mission of God (Missio Dei) we accept Christ’s Great Commission as our primary mission. <i>“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”</i> (Matthew 28:19-20a). We encourage our students to see their university campus, their future career placement, and the nations of the world as the mission field to which Jesus directs them to take His glorious gospel (Isaiah 49:6, Luke 24:45-48, Acts 1:8, 2:38-39, Romans 6:3-4).

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- <sup>i</sup> National Chi Alpha Philosophy of Ministry, 1977.
- <sup>ii</sup> All Bible quotations, unless otherwise noted come from, Holy Bible, New International Version, Zondervan, 2011.
- <sup>iii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>iv</sup> Ibid
- <sup>v</sup> Adopted, 2005.
- <sup>vi</sup> Ibid
- <sup>vii</sup> Christians throughout the ages have declared their beliefs in the form of creedal statements. Chi Alpha is in substantial agreement with the ancient creeds including the Nicene Creed, 381 A.D.; The Apostles Creed, 180 A.D.; and the Chalcedonian Creed, 451 C.E.
- <sup>viii</sup> “In that light, it also came to be very commonly known simply as the “Nicene Creed”. It is the only authoritative ecumenical statement of the Christian faith accepted by the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Anglican, and the major Protestant denominations.” Wikipedia, Retrieved February 9, 2017. “Christianity Today reports on a study that shows most evangelicals believe the basic Nicene formulation”. Retrieved October 29, 2014.
- <sup>ix</sup> “Nicene Creed”. Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, 2018. Web. 17 August 2018.
- <sup>x</sup> 16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God, Ag.org. Retrieved February 1, 2017.
- <sup>xi</sup> The Westminster Confession, 1647.
- <sup>xii</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:13f; 1 Corinthians 12:4f; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; 3:2ff; 4:4ff; 5:18ff; Titus 3:4f; 2 Timothy 1:3-13; Hebrews 2:3f; 6:4f; 10:29ff; 1 Peter 1:2; 2:3ff; 4:13ff; 1 John 5:4; Jude 20f; Revelation 1:4ff)
- <sup>xiii</sup> The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible. “Trinity,” (Zondervan, 1976) Vol. 5, page 822.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Menzies, Robert P. Pentecost: This Story Is Our Story (Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, MO 2013) 24-25.
- <sup>xv</sup> Unless otherwise stated, all biblical attributions come from the New International Version of the Bible, 2011.
- <sup>xvi</sup> General Council of the Assemblies of God Position Paper, “Divine Healing.” Adopted August 9-11, 2010.
- <sup>xvii</sup> General Council of the Assemblies of God Position Paper, “Baptism in the Holy Spirit.” Adopted August 9-11, 2010.
- <sup>xviii</sup> National Chi Alpha Philosophy of Ministry, 1977.
- <sup>xix</sup> Herman, Harvey. Discipleship By Design (College Ministries Department, Division of Home Missions, 1991) 12.1-12.3
- <sup>xx</sup> National Chi Alpha Philosophy of Ministry, 1977.
- <sup>xxi</sup> General Council of the Assemblies of God Position Paper, “The Doctrine of Creation.” Adopted August 2010, and revised August 2014.
- <sup>xxii</sup> “Abuse,” this document reflects commonly held beliefs on scripture that have been endorsed by the church’s Commission on Doctrinal Purity and the Executive Presbytery.
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Integrity” is one of Chi Alpha’s six national core values. Determined in 2005. [www.chialpha.com](http://www.chialpha.com)
- <sup>xxiv</sup> Holy Bible, New International Version, Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, 1984.
- <sup>xxv</sup> “Diversity” is one of Chi Alpha’s six national core values. Determined in 2005. [www.chialpha.com](http://www.chialpha.com)
- <sup>xxvi</sup> Purpose statement of the Chi Alpha Diversity Task Force. Determined February 15, 2015.
- <sup>xxvii</sup> General Council of the Assemblies of God Position Paper, “Abstinence From Alcohol.” Adopted August 2-3, 2016.
- <sup>xxviii</sup> General Council of the Assemblies of God Position Paper, “Sanctity of Human Life: Abortion and Reproductive Issues.” Adopted August 9-11, 2010.
- <sup>xxix</sup> Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Article XIV, Section 2c2, “Chi Alpha Campus Ministries provides campus ministry to evangelize and disciple American and international college and university students.”
- <sup>xxx</sup> Herman, Harvey. Loving and Serving International Students (Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, 2003) 12-13.

# Chi Alpha Campus Ministries

## Best Practices for University Student Ministry

<b>Chi Alpha Equips Students to Study the Bible</b>	
1	<p>Since Chi Alpha accepts The Holy Bible as our ultimate authority and guide for belief and practice,<sup>i</sup> we instruct students to study the Bible using the historical grammatical hermeneutical method. We believe the importance of the original intent of the biblical writer is best discovered in the light of its historical and literary context,<sup>ii</sup> thus, we teach students the inductive method of Bible study that moves from “observation” to “interpretation” and then to the personal and community “application” of biblical passages. We teach students the skill of interpreting the Bible for their own religious worship and devotion to God and also for the building up of the community of believers.(cf. Romans 15:4; Acts 17:2, 11; 18:24, 28; 2 Timothy 3:14-15).</p>
<b>Chi Alpha Trains Students in the Creedal Statements of the Christian Faith</b>	
2	<p>Chi Alpha proclaims the creedal statements of the Christian Faith with settled certainty and full personal conviction. We believe the articles of our Faith, directly derived from the Bible, are both trustworthy and practical, and “<i>useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work</i>” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).<sup>iii</sup> We believe the best practices for passing on the foundations of the Christian Faith to university students occur in two contexts: “<i>large group meetings (for worship, teaching and ministry) and small group meetings (for discipleship, fellowship and accountability.)</i>”<sup>iv</sup> We train students to assume leadership roles in both the large group and small group contexts.</p>
<b>Chi Alpha Builds Community on Campus</b>	
3	<p>Chi Alpha aspires to follow the example of the 1<sup>st</sup> century Church in the pluralistic society of its day, that is, a unified fellowship of diverse Christian believers founded on the love of God, centered around the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and vitalized by the Holy Spirit (Romans 3:21-25a, Galatians 3:27-28). We yearn to see a diverse student generation discover the common life that Jesus offers and facilitates by the ever-present ministry of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus every person is offered a seat at the table of the Lord. Therefore, Chi Alpha seeks to build bridges allying American students with international students, and connecting students of differing ethnic backgrounds, and serving students who feel otherwise disenfranchised. In Jesus we find a common fellowship (John 11:51-52, John 17:22-26, Hebrews 2:11).</p>
<b>Chi Alpha Promotes the Dignity of all Persons</b>	
4	<p>Chi Alpha believes God created all men and women in the image of God, thus bestowing on all those born and unborn unique and distinctive human dignity (Genesis 1:26). Chi Alpha encourages students to care for people who are marginalized in society and help to meet their inalienable rights to the basic needs of life (Matthew 25:31-46). We encourage students to sponsor hungry children through feedOne, our compassion partner providing food and opportunities to children and families in need. We encourage students to help people in need, i.e. tutor at-risk children; disaster relief; serve the homeless; Convoy of Hope, etc (Proverbs 19:17).</p>
<b>Chi Alpha Needs Student Leaders to Serve as Spiritual Leaders to the General Members</b>	
5	<p>Chi Alpha seeks to perpetuate integrity in mission in all of its local university chapters. For Chi Alpha to promote and practice our Faith, it is essential and inherent that the students affirmed to leadership roles be spiritual leaders to the general members and to the university campus at large. Our organization cannot survive if the spiritual leaders of said organization do not share and own the values, beliefs and mission of the organization.<sup>v</sup> As Jesus said, “<i>Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall</i>” (Luke 11:17). Chi Alpha needs our student leaders to the best of their ability to lead the student group in our five-fold Philosophy of Ministry: that is to establish on the college campus a student community of worship, prayer, fellowship, discipleship and mission.<sup>vi</sup></p>

Chi Alpha Promotes a Principled Moral Life	
6	Chi Alpha believes in the Great Commandment articulated by Jesus, “ <i>Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.</i> ’ <i>The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these</i> ” (Mark 12: 30-31). Consequently, Chi Alpha affirms those who love God as Jesus instructed will be healthier in heart, soul, mind and strength. In this way Jesus advocates for a holistic approach to health. Chi Alpha seeks to assist students who face health struggles of any kind including but not limited to physical pain, issues of substance abuse, self-harm, emotional distress, and mental health. Where appropriate, we recommend students seek the care of medical and/or psychological professionals. We also stand ready to offer faith-based advice and prayer provided by a Chi Alpha staff person with ministerial credentials.
7	Chi Alpha believes sexual lust, including pornography, is impure and dehumanizing and people must come to God for forgiveness of sins so “ <i>each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable</i> ” (1 Thessalonians 4:4) (cf. Matthew 5:27-30). We further believe unmarried cohabitation is sexual immorality (Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 5:3). We believe the gospel of Jesus Christ provides power that brings healing to, forgiveness for, and freedom from besetting sins <sup>viii</sup> (Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 6:11).
8	Chi Alpha believes it is important to make a distinction between sexual attraction and sexual behavior. Sexual attraction is not sin, unless it turns to lust or improper sexual behavior (Matthew 5:27-28). We believe God provides in Jesus Christ a pathway for persons with lust and immoral sexual behavior to be “ <i>washed ... sanctified ... justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God</i> ” (1 Corinthians 6: 11). All student leaders are expected to live sexually pure lives, and we further expect them to agree with Chi Alpha’s religious beliefs that God’s design for sexual behavior is reserved for marriage between a man and a woman. Every other sexual relationship beyond this falls short of God’s ideal and is not in keeping with God’s original plan for humanity (Genesis 2:18, 24-25, Matthew 19:4-6, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, Ephesians 5:25-31).
9	Chi Alpha welcomes all students without regard to sexual identity to participate in our university ministry, including in our group activities, events, main and small group meetings, trips, retreats, and social activities. As it pertains to students who identify their gender to be other than their biological sex, who wish to participate in Chi Alpha’s sex-specific activities (such as a small group Bible study) the local Chi Alpha affiliated leaders hold the prerogative to make a decision according to the best interests of their spiritual development.
Chi Alpha Respects the Privacy of All Students	
10	Chi Alpha welcomes all students to participate in our university ministry and seeks to protect every student’s individual right to privacy. When it comes to off-campus trips, we ask students to accept housing and use locker rooms or similar intimate facilities that correspond to their biological sex at birth. If a student is uncomfortable with this arrangement, or has special privacy needs, we will offer a private, single-person room at our expense, if available.
Chi Alpha Promotes Living a Mission-driven Life	
11	Chi Alpha believes in the Great Commission articulated by Jesus, “ <i>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you</i> ” (Matthew 28:19-20a). We encourage all students to engage in a short-term mission trip either domestic or foreign (1-3 weeks), at least once during their college career. We further encourage students to consider giving a year in mission service after they graduate, and pray about a lifetime of missionary service. Students in Chi Alpha who do not elect to do mission service are not treated differently in any way as it pertains to participation and leadership.

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- i General Council of the Assemblies of God Position Paper, “The Inspiration, Inerrancy, and Authority of Scripture.” Adopted by the General Presbytery in session August 1 & 3, 2015.
- ii Menzies, Robert P. Pentecost: This Story Is Our Story (Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, MO 2013) 24-25.
- iii Unless otherwise stated, all biblical attributions come the New International Version of the Bible, 1984.
- iv Herman, Harvey. Discipleship By Design (Xulon Press, 2008) p. 52.
- v Blanchard, Ken and Michael O’Connor. Managing By Values (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, San Francisco, 2003) p. 3  
*“Perhaps more than at any previous time, an organization today must know what it stands for and on what principles it will operate. No longer is values-based organizational behavior an interesting philosophical choice – it is a requisite for survival.”* Daft, Richard. Organization Theory and Design (Thomson, Mason, Ohio 2004) p. 380 *“Organizational values are developed and strengthened primarily through values-based leadership, a relationship between a leader and followers that is based on shared, strongly internalized values that are advocated and acted upon by the leader.”*
- vi National Chi Alpha Philosophy of Ministry, 1977.
- vii General Council of the Assemblies of God Position Paper, “Divine Healing.” Adopted August 9-11, 2010.