




Affiliation

HOW TO JOIN CONVERGE HEARTLAND

www.convergeheartland.org



CONVERGE HEARTLAND IS A
MOVEMENT OF GOSPEL-CENTERED
CHURCHES BRINGING TRANSFORMATION
TO EVERY HEARTLAND COMMUNITY.

A WORD FROM JIM CAPALDO, REGIONAL PRESIDENT

Thank you for exploring Converge Heartland. As you and your church consider affiliation with the Converge Heartland District of churches, it is likely that you are looking for alignment in the areas of mission, vision, values, doctrine, and ministry philosophy. It is also likely that you are seeking meaningful pastoral fellowship, collaborative ministry opportunities, as well as ministry-strengthening services. We invite a conversation and desire for your church to experience a value-added relationship with a like-minded movement of churches.

We are a growing movement of churches spread across North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and the I-29 corridor of Missouri. Some of our churches are in urban centers, some are in small towns, and many are located in rural regions. Though each Converge Heartland church is autonomous, each are congregationally governed, theologically conservative, gospel-centered, grace-driven, and Great Commission oriented. Together, we celebrate over 150 years of proclaiming Christ across the Heartland!

As you explore Converge Heartland, know that we are one of ten nation-wide districts comprising over 1,600 churches with many global initiatives advancing gospel movements around the world's least reached populations. We believe that we can do more together than we can alone. In a phrase, we are "better together."



JIM CAPALDO

REGIONAL PRESIDENT

CHURCH AFFILIATION PROCESS

STEP-BY-STEP DESCRIPTION

1 BUILD THE RELATIONSHIP

Let's get to know each other:

- Attend one or more regional LEAD team meetings and Converge events
- Invite a Converge Heartland representative to visit your church to meet with your leaders
- Have a Converge Heartland representative preach or give a presentation about Converge during a worship service or special congregational meeting
- Review the following Converge Heartland documents: Affirmation of Faith, Mission and Values, Expectations of Membership, and Benefits of Partnership included in this booklet
- Learn more about Converge Heartland on our website at convergeheartland.org

2 APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Apply for membership with Converge Heartland:

Application: Complete the online application and attach the following documents for us to review:

- Church Statement of Faith and history
- Church constitution, by-laws, and budget
- Record of congregational affiliation vote

Group Interview: Converge Heartland pastors from the regional LEAD team would like an opportunity to meet with the pastor and key leaders of your church. During the interview they will discuss what it means to be a member of Converge Heartland and answer any remaining questions that you have. The pastors at the meeting will make a formal recommendation to the Board of Converge Heartland that your church be welcomed as new members.

3 COMMIT TO PARTNERSHIP

Commitment from your church:

Your church will need to hold a vote according to its by-laws, whether as a congregation or leadership board, in order to join Converge Heartland. After the vote, your church must submit a letter to Converge Heartland on official letterhead stating that the church has approved by vote its intention to join in membership.

Commitment from Converge Heartland:

The Board of Overseers will vote on the recommendation from the LEAD team to welcome your church as a new member and partner in ministry. The pastors of the LEAD team will sign a certificate of membership and present it to your pastor at the next regular LEAD team meeting. When your church is welcomed as a new member of Converge Heartland it also becomes a member of the national Converge movement.

NEXT STEPS

If you're ready to get started with the affiliation process, visit convergeheartland.org to start the application.

If you have questions, you can reach us at office@convergeheartland.org or jim@convergeheartland.org or call 833-285-8488.

OUR MISSION

STARTING AND STRENGTHENING
CHURCHES TOGETHER WORLDWIDE.

OUR VISION

A GOSPEL-CENTERED CHURCH
BRINGING TRANSFORMATION TO
EVERY HEARTLAND COMMUNITY.

OUR VALUES

We are devoted to being one movement that is:



SPIRITUALLY
DEVOTED



MISSIONALLY
DRIVEN



RELATIONALLY
CONNECTED



CULTURALLY
DIVERSE

OUR DISTINCTIVES

1. SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE
2. CHURCH HEALTH
3. MINISTRY LEADER DEVELOPMENT
4. COMPLEMENTARITY
5. PRAYER
6. COOPERATIVE GENEROSITY

MISSION, VALUES, & BELIEFS

OUR AFFIRMATION OF 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.

Humanity

We believe God created humankind immutably as male and female to reflect and bear his image. As such, human beings of every ethnicity, age, ability, as well as the pre-born deserve dignity, protection, honor, respect, and Christian love. Because of Adam and Eve's free choice to sin, God's image in all humankind has become distorted and relationship with God has become disrupted.

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.

Continued >

MISSION, VALUES, & BELIEFS (CONTINUED)

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

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 profession 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.

Christian Marriage

We believe that Christian marriage is a sacred institution ordained by God for the well-being and propagation of humankind. It is a covenant representing the spiritual and physical union into which one man and one woman may enter for

the glory of God, symbolizing the relationship of Christ to his church. As the sign of this covenant, sexual activity is reserved exclusively for the marriage relationship. According to the scriptural ideal, marriage requires sacrificial love and faithfulness to each other for life.

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 an association of churches. Such an organization, whether it is Converge (formerly known as Baptist General Conference), or one of its regional districts, 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 independent 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.



STARTING

BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

Converge Heartland churches are committed to starting new congregations so that every neighborhood can have a vibrant, gospel-centered church.

The task of planting a successful church is not easy, but we believe ANY church can multiply no matter its size or stage of ministry. When you plant with Converge, you'll be able to implement proven systems that will help increase the long-term success and health of your church plant or campus, so more people will have the opportunity to place their faith in Jesus.

You'll also receive:

- Nationally renowned assessment center and proven process to identify qualified church planters
- Practical training and resources to help you launch faster
- Tested strategies contextualized to your model of ministry and target community
- Personalized coaching and leadership development
- More importantly, you'll be part of a family with other experienced church planters and mentors to support you and enthusiastic partners who want to see you succeed



“ CHURCH PLANTING WITH CONVERGE HEARTLAND WAS OFTEN THE FUEL THAT KEPT OUR CHURCH PLANTING FIRE BURNING. IT HAS BEEN A REAL GIFT TO NOT ONLY HAVE DISTRICT STAFF WHO BELIEVED IN OUR MISSION AND CALLING TO THE COMMUNITY, BUT ALSO TO HAVE REGIONAL PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS SURROUND US AND ENCOURAGE US ALONG THE WAY HAS PROVEN TO BE INVALUABLE.

TYLER WILTERDING
The Table Church, Kearny, NE

“ GROWING FROM 50 PEOPLE TO OVER 100 IN TWO YEARS IS EXCITING, BUT HAS LED TO GROWTH PAINS. THE STRATOP PLANNING RETREAT WE WENT THROUGH WITH CONVERGE HEARTLAND HAS MADE US A HEALTHIER CHURCH WITH A UNITED LEADERSHIP. OUR MONTHLY PASTOR GATHERING IS ENCOURAGING TO ME AS A SMALL TOWN PASTOR.

DANIEL BEAR

PASTOR, ST. PAUL, NE

STRENGTHENING

BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

Every family goes through good times and difficult challenges. The same is true for churches. This is why it's important for Converse Heartland churches to know and care for each other. We are convinced that healthy churches are led by healthy leaders, and pastors thrive when they have environments to strengthen one another. For this reason, Converse Heartland creates resources that provide support so that ministry and personal life can thrive.

- Personal and group coaching networks
- LEAD teams for pastors to Learn, Encourage, Achieve, and Dream together
- Vision-casting materials and other leadership development tools
- Strategic ministry planning retreats
- Pastoral searches and interim pastor placement services
- Access to regional and national events and conferences
- Ministry residency and internship program
- Assistance with church revitalization, restarts, and mergers
- Sabbatical grants
- Pulpit supply and district speakers
- Capital campaign consulting and generosity training
- Assistance for conflict resolution, crisis management, and strategic planning
- Pension and retirement plans for church staff
- Loan program for new construction and building improvement

SENDING

BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

Did you know that there are more than 4700 ethnic groups in the world that have not yet heard the gospel? That's 1.8 billion people who have not experienced the life-changing love of God.

The good news is that you can make a difference!

Together we are asking God for a gospel movement among every least-reached people group --in our generation. Converge Heartland is building partnerships and collecting resources to empower churches like yours to effectively fulfill the Great Commission. Converge Heartland churches are working together to raise up a new generation of missionaries to reach the world.

- Strategic coaching to move your church into high-impact, cross-cultural engagement
- International initiatives where your church can make an impact
- An assessment center to identify qualified missionaries from your church
- Missionary training and support
- Church planting in the least-reached and most remote areas of the world Networks of churches working together to reach the same areas of the world
- Vision trips for church leaders to see God's work around the world

OUR MINISTRY PARTNERS



“ LEADING A CHURCH CAN BE COMPLEX,
BUT I HAVE A NETWORK OF PEOPLE
FROM CONVERGE CHURCHES ALL
AROUND THE COUNTRY WHO ARE IN
MY CORNER... YOU'RE NEVER ALONE
ON A TEAM LIKE THIS.

BEN PAYNE

LEAD PASTOR, MITCHELL, SD



EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

God designed us to live for something bigger than ourselves and our churches. So our movement of autonomous congregations choose to work together, starting and strengthening churches and sending missionaries. Their collaboration includes participation in resourcing those efforts locally and globally.

- **Commitment to the Converge Heartland Affirmation of Faith, Values, and Distinctives**
Your church's affirmation of faith does not need to be the same as the Converge Heartland statement, but it should be consistent with Converge Heartland's convictions.
- **Commitment to practice believer's baptism by immersion**
- **The church's membership should be comprised of those who have followed Christ in believer's baptism by immersion.**
Converge Heartland also recognizes churches that have an entry level membership of believers who are not immersed, but who do not serve in spiritual leadership positions until baptized.
- **Governance that includes both spiritual leadership and congregational involvement**
For example, congregational involvement in church governance could include voting to call a pastor, affirming the selection of elders, affirming an annual budget, and/or approving changes to the constitution.
- **It is recommended that your church's constitution include a statement of membership with Converge Heartland. It's also recommended, but not required, that Converge Heartland is listed as a beneficiary of assets in the case of dissolution.**
- **Active participation in the mission and vision of Converge Heartland through prayer, personal involvement and financial support**
- **We strongly encourage you to connect with Converge pastors at regional LEAD team meetings and other Converge events for mutual encouragement. We urge your church to seek ways to participate in collaborative ministry endeavors and church planting efforts as the Lord leads.**

We humbly ask your church to give generously and cheerfully to Converge Heartland's mission to start and strengthen churches together worldwide. An ideal goal is that your church would give 2% of the church budget to Converge Heartland, 1% to Converge Heartland Church Planting, and at least 1% of your church budget to support Converge National & International Ministry opportunities.





BETTER TOGETHER

Some churches don't believe they need to be part of a movement. They are confident they can accomplish ministry without the help of others. Yet in hard times, where do you turn?

Imagine partnering with other like-minded churches, pastors, staff, and congregations - all working together to accomplish the same goal. Your goal. Our goal. God's goal: *helping people meet, know, and follow Jesus.*

What if you could take more ground for the kingdom, faster and better? Would it be worth joining the team?

More than an official welcome, you will enter into partnership with a vibrant group of missional leaders. And you will establish relationships that strengthen you personally as well as the ministry of your church. You'll be part of global ministry eager to help see Christ's Great Commission completed in this generation.

Get started at convergeheartland.org

MEET OUR STAFF



JIM CAPALDO
REGIONAL PRESIDENT



STEVE KRIER
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH
PLANTING



GREG FRIESNER
DIRECTOR OF
INCARCERATED MINISTRIES



ANGELA MYERS
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT
MINISTRIES



HARLAN MOSS
INCARCERATED
MINISTRIES CHAPLAIN



JOHN MORRISON
INCARCERATED
MINISTRIES CHAPLAIN



CHASE HILL
CHURCH PLANTING
CATALYST



DANNY FERGEN
PASTORAL SEARCH
COORDINATOR



CRISTY SLAWSON
OFFICE MANAGER



CODY WECKERLY
CHURCH PLANTING
CATALYST



DANA OLSON
DIRECTOR OF
PRAYER FIRST HEARTLAND



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