

# Eternal Life CHURCH

6428 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95823

## New Member Orientation

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### Welcome to Eternal Life Church

A Message from Pastor Christopher Thao

Zoo siab tos txais! On behalf of the governing board and every member of Eternal Life Church, I want to extend a warm welcome to you. We have been praying for you and are very happy that you have now come.

Looking for a home church is challenging. It's similar to refugee resettlement. I was often asked, "Why do Hmong from tropical Laos come to make home in the frigid Minnesota?" My answer has always been: "The people climate is warm."

We hope you find the proper temperature here at ELC. We open our hearts to receive you just as Christ received you. Christ is the head of this church. As his body, we seek his will.

Our first priority is that you meet the Lord Jesus and receive him as your Lord and Savior. This meeting with Jesus is also called born again (John 1:12-13; 3:1-21). Salvation is a gift and you know when you receive it. Please tell us whether you have.

Second, we want you to grow as a disciple of Christ (John 15:1-8). Until we become fruitful disciples, Christianity is mere religion.

Third, we all are on this journey with Jesus (John 10:2-5, 14; 21:15-22). That means, we hear his call and follow.

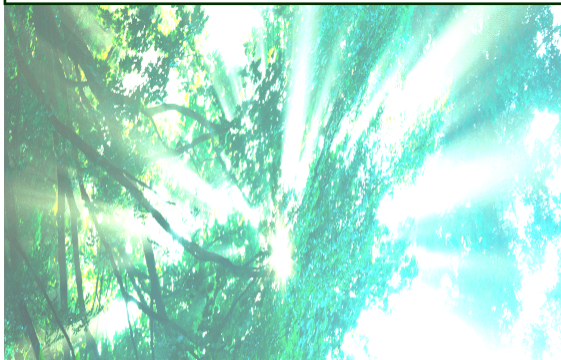
My family came here to serve because of the call. When I was called from the practice of law to full time ministry in 1995, the Holy Spirit whispered this verse into my heart:

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead (**Phil 3:10-11**).

This verse became the core of everything I do. Every aspect of my life can be explained through this verse.

Again, welcome to ELC.

Christopher





# THE ALLIANCE

When Alliance founder A. B. Simpson left a lucrative pastorate in New York City, he had a call from God to reach the lost masses both in New York and around the world.

Prostitutes, longshoremen, and the homeless received the reconciliation message that all people are eligible for Christ's amazing grace. He established the New York Gospel Tabernacle to bring likeminded people together into an organization that could facilitate outreach ministries.

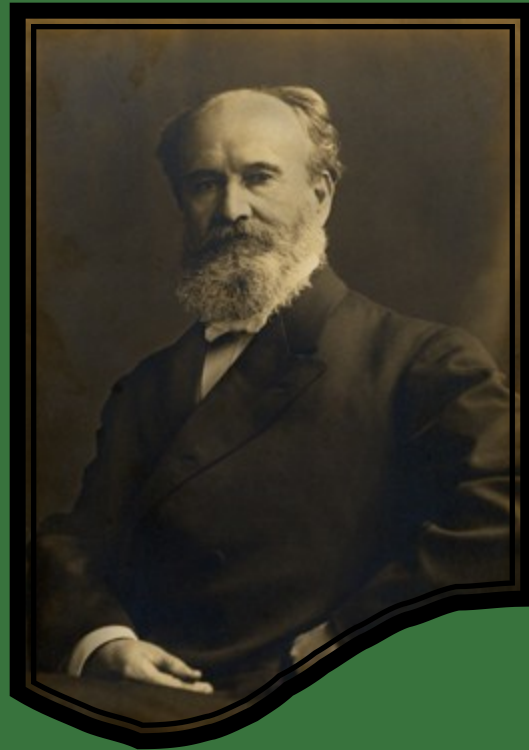
He set up the Missionary Training Institute (MTI) to provide training and resources for men and women God was calling to take the gospel to the world. During that time, Simpson's group sent out the first team of missionaries to the Congo in 1884.

Since then, thousands of people have followed God's call to serve through The Alliance in the United States and abroad. In 1974, The Christian and Missionary (C&MA) officially became a denomination, but it still had at its core a heart for overseas missions. Past Alliance president Dr. L. L. King said of the C&MA that it "was not established as a mission divorced from the normal activity of a church, but a church which had within it the life and function of a mission.... The mission came first and the church grew out of a mission."

Today, the C&MA focuses on planting churches in the United States and overseas. Alliance international workers minister in 70 countries planting churches and training national church leaders, providing relief and development assistance, medical and dental care, and microenterprise projects. More than 2,000 churches in the U.S. minister Christ's love to their communities and cities.

To learn more... <http://www.cmalliance.org/about/>

## History of The Christian and Missionary Alliance



A. B. Simpson

Albert Benjamin Simpson, founder of The Christian and Missionary Alliance was born December 15, 1843 in Bayview, Prince Edward Island, Canada. At an early age he felt the call of God on his life to preach and later experienced a dramatic conversion to faith in Jesus Christ.

# FOURFOLD GOSPEL

Alliance founder Dr. A. B. Simpson defined the C&MA's spiritual DNA more than 100 years ago, referring to it as the Fourfold Gospel; it's the heart of what Alliance people believe about Jesus and forms the foundation of all that defines The Alliance movement.



The Fourfold Gospel is the Christological summary on which the core values of The Christian and Missionary Alliance is based. Through dramatic spiritual encounters that changed the course of his life, Simpson came to firmly believe

that Christ was not only his Savior, but also his Sanctifier and Healer.

Alliance people share this rich legacy, as well as our founder's passion to complete the Great Commission—to take the light of Christ to places where there is little access to the truth—and bring back our Coming King.



Jesus Christ is our Savior.

The Name of Jesus has impacted lives around the world for more than 2,000 years. He is a universal Savior, promising that: "whoever believes in him shall not perish but

have eternal life."

Jesus is an exclusive Savior. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name in heaven given to men by which we must be saved" Acts 4:12. Contrary to what contemporary culture tells us, there are not multiple paths to God. There is only one—Jesus Christ



Jesus Christ is our Sanctifier.

Many Christians understand God's promise of salvation but do not experience the ongoing sanctifying work of Jesus Christ in their lives.

For those who neither understand nor allow the Holy Spirit's control in their lives, the results have a profound effect.

Unsuccessful struggle against sin and a lack of power in life and ministry frustrate those who have asked Jesus to be their Savior but not their Sanctifier, resulting in a lack of joy in their walk with Christ. At the point when we are born again, we become members of God's family. We believe He paid the price for our sin and that his followers are—set apart from those are not born again—and are seen as holy because of what Christ has done.

Jesus Christ is our Healer.



A great portion of Christ's time was dedicated to healing the sick. He healed all kinds of people: the blind, the paralyzed, the lame, the deaf, lepers, those who had fevers, and

many with chronic illnesses.

We find no record in the gospels of Jesus turning away anyone who came to him for healing, nor do we find that any disease was too difficult for him to heal. He even raised the dead. Miraculous healings still occur today—evidence that Christ is still our Healer.

Jesus Christ is our Coming King.



The physical return of Jesus has been the subject of speculation and controversy since His ascension into the clouds, which is recorded in the New Testament Book of Acts. Know-

ing that countless millions still have not heard the gospel, The Alliance is committed to doing its part to complete Christ's Great Commission before His imminent return.

To learn more...

<http://www.cmalliance.org/about/beliefs/fourfold-gospel>



THEALLIANCE





# CMA STATEMENT OF FAITH

There is one God,<sup>(1)</sup> who is infinitely perfect,<sup>(2)</sup> existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.<sup>(3)</sup>

Jesus Christ is the true God and the true man.<sup>(4)</sup> He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.<sup>(5)</sup> He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust,<sup>(6)</sup> as a substitutionary sacrifice,<sup>(7)</sup> and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.<sup>(8)</sup> He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures.<sup>(9)</sup> He is now at the right hand of Majesty on high as our great High Priest.<sup>(10)</sup> He will come again to establish His kingdom, righteousness and peace.<sup>(11)</sup>

The Holy Spirit is a divine person,<sup>(12)</sup> sent to indwell, guide, teach, empower the believer,<sup>(13)</sup> and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.<sup>(14)</sup>

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 men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.<sup>(15)</sup>

Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God:<sup>(16)</sup> he fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature,<sup>(17)</sup> are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>(18)</sup> The portion of the unrepentant and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment;<sup>(19)</sup> and that of the believer, in everlasting joy and bliss.<sup>(20)</sup>

Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men; and those who repent and believe in Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, and become the children of God.<sup>(21)</sup>

It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly,<sup>(22)</sup> being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service.<sup>(23)</sup> This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion.<sup>(24)</sup>

Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body.<sup>(25)</sup> Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age.<sup>(26)</sup>

The Church consists of all those who believe on 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, <sup>(27)</sup> which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations.<sup>(28)</sup> 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.<sup>(29)</sup>

There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life;<sup>(30)</sup> for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment.<sup>(31)</sup>

The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent<sup>(32)</sup> and will be personal, visible, and premillennial.<sup>(33)</sup> This is the believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service.<sup>(34)</sup>

[1] Deuteronomy 6:4, [2] Matthew 5:48, [3] Matthew 28:19, [4] Philippians 2:6â11, [5] Luke 1:34â38, [6] 1 Peter 3:18, [7] Hebrews 2:9, [8] Romans 5:9, [9] Acts 2:23â24, [10] Hebrews 8:1, [11] Matthew 26:64, [12] John 14:15â18, [13] John 16:13; Acts 1:8, [14] John 16:7â11, [15] 2 Peter 1:20â21; 2 Timothy 3:15â16, [16] Genesis 1:27, [17] Romans 3:23, [18] 1 Corinthians 15:20â23, [19] Revelation 21:8, [20] Revelation 21:1â4, [21] Titus 3:4â7, [22] 1 Thessalonians 5:23, [23] Acts 1:8, [24] Romans 6:1â14, [25] Matthew 8:16â17, [26] James 5:13â16, [27] Ephesians 1:22â23, [28] Matthew 28:19â20, [29] Acts 2:41â47, [30] 1 Corinthians 15:20â23, [31] John 5:28â29, [32] Hebrews 10:37, [33] Luke 21:27, [34] Titus 2:11â14

To learn more... <http://www.cmalliance.org/about/beliefs/doctrine>



# THE ALLIANCE

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. —Jesus*

Christ's Great Commission is the Call of The Christian and Missionary Alliance—it's why we exist! We are compelled by Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations. Reaching the lost is a cause for which we are willing to go to the ends of the earth—this is no small task!

So what is it going to take?

We need to work together. Completing the Great Commission will require the mobilization of every fully devoted disciple of Jesus Christ. Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the Alliance is committed to developing a Christ-centered, Acts 1:8, family.

Funding this work is no small task. It takes approximately \$40,000 annually to keep an individual worker on the field. Through the generous and sacrificial giving of people like you, workers are sent to fulfill this calling of Jesus in all the earth. Find out more about the current status of the Great Commission Fund (GCF) now!



The Alliance family is diverse and united. More than 400,000 believers worship in 31 languages in more than 2,000 U.S. Alliance churches, with 30,000 Alliance churches throughout the world.

Following Jesus is not intended to be a solitary journey. As a family of believers, we uphold each other in the faith, bring comfort when needed, celebrate life together, and combine resources to accomplish God's work. We can do much more together than we can do apart. That is the challenge our founder, A. B. Simpson, gave to believers many years ago. And that is what has made The Alliance

one of the most effective missions organizations the world has known.

When it comes to sharing the reason for our hope, faith, and joy, we reach more people when we work together. Our partnership in building Christ's Church worldwide is getting the job done!

We hope you, too, will join the thousands of people who regularly participate in the worldwide work of Alliance Great Commission Ministries.



How are we building community?

We do things in community, relating to each other in ways that honor Christ and build up His Kingdom. Jesus instructed His followers to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-49).

Love is not optional for Christians. We who have experienced the great love of the Father want to share His love with others. Today, The Alliance is caring for the refugee, the sick, and the lost through relief work, clinics, schools, and acts of compassion. This gives us opportunity to share the message of Christ's saving love. We make it a priority to establish churches so that those who come to Christ will have the support and discipleship of a church family. To learn more... <http://www.cmalliance.org/about/beliefs/great-commission>



# CORE VALUES

What we believe determines what we value, and what we value defines how we live. Scripture-based core values are the key to successful Kingdom living.

Alliance people share seven core values that flow from the Fourfold Gospel—the driving force behind our desire to know Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King.

As you read through these values ask God how He would have you apply them in your daily walk with Him.

## Lost People

Lost people matter to God. He wants them found.



In the formative years of our movement, the Holy Spirit instilled within A. B. Simpson a passion to reach people with no knowledge of Jesus Christ in his “Jerusalem” and around the world. That

passion still lives within The Alliance today.

To learn more... <http://www.cmalliance.org/alife/lost-people-matter-to-god/>

## Prayer

Prayer is the primary work of God’s people.

We believe that nothing of lasting value can be done unless it is bathed in prayer. So passionate was his belief that prayer undergirds all ministry, Alliance founder A. B. Simpson was compelled to create a prayer league to focus on the world’s evangelization. He believed that the Prayer Alliance would “prove to be the mightiest force in the spread of missions;” that force still drives The Alliance today.

To learn more... <http://www.cmalliance.org/alife/living-the-call-together/>

## Stewardship

Everything we have belongs to God. We are His stewards.

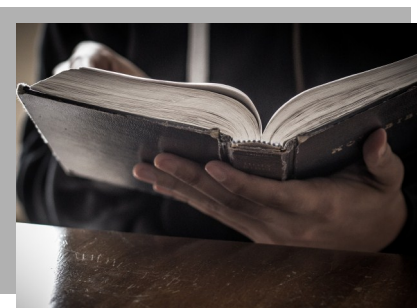
This core value is intrinsic to the nature and structure of The Alliance—we teach and practice the blessing and effectiveness of the faith principle of giving as Scripture encourages us to remember that it’s not the amount of money we have or how much we give—it’s recognizing that everything we have comes from God (Luke 21:1-4).

To learn more... <http://www.cmalliance.org/alife/out-with-the-old/>

## God’s Word

Knowing and obeying God’s Word is fundamental to all true success.

If The Alliance had a “life application” verse, it would be Matthew 28:19: 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—AKA The Great Commission!



But the next verse is equally important: “. . . and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

To learn more... <http://www.cmalliance.org/alife/trust-and-obey/>

# CORE VALUES

## Great Commission

Completing the Great Commission will require the mobilization of every fully devoted disciple.



In The Christian and Missionary Alliance the first priority of every minister, congregation, and believer is to work for the evangelization of the world.

Healthy churches producing healthy disciples devoted to reaching lost people—this is what will hasten the completion of the Great Commission and the return of Jesus Christ.

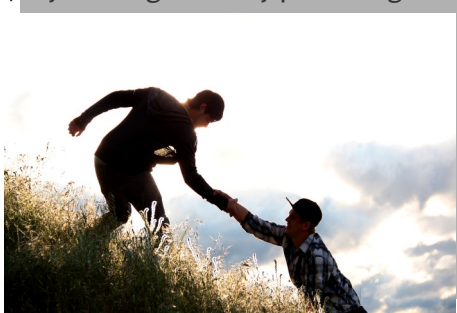
To learn more... <http://www.cmalliance.org/alife/an-unfinished-reformation/>

## Empowered

Without the Holy Spirit's empowerment, we can accomplish nothing.

The Apostle Paul said, My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power (1 Corinthians 2:4-5). This is the fiber of our being as believers and the sixth of our Alliance core values.

To learn more... <http://www.cmalliance.org/alife/apart-from-me-you-can-do-nothing/>



## Faith-Filled Risk

Achieving God's purposes means taking faith-filled risks. This always involves change.

For more than a century, Alliance workers have braved harsh and dangerous territory—often at great personal risk—to take the good news of Jesus to a lost world. These workers experienced this Alliance Core Value—“Achieving God's purposes means taking faith-filled risks. This always involves change.” Because of the selfless dedication of Alliance workers who were willing to lay down their lives for the gospel, entire people groups now know Jesus.

To learn more... <http://www.cmalliance.org/alife/jumping-off-the-edge/>

For more information regarding these Alliance Core Values please visit website:

To learn more... <http://www.cmalliance.org/about/beliefs/values>

For more information regarding Alliance perspectives on topics such as Abortion, Baptisms, Divorce, etc. Please visit CMA's website:

<http://www.cmalliance.org/about/beliefs/perspectives/>



# THE ALLIANCE



# Eternal Life CHURCH

## CHURCH HISTORY

In the beginning....

From our humble beginnings, Eternal Life Church (ELC) has strived to remain true to God's calling for us. We endeavored to remain steadfast in the face of adversity and to be willing to step out in faith and God has vastly blessed us for that. In looking back at our short history, we can clearly see that God was at work each step of the way. This gives us hope for the future and inspires us to continue to do work that will impact not only the Sacramento area but also the world.

On October 3, 2010, Eternal Life Church met together for the first time as a non-denominational church under the guidance of Pastor Mark Hitman. For the first two years, ELC met at the home of Mike and Kenberlynn Xiong and All Nations Seventh Day Adventist Church located in Elk Grove, CA until we were able to purchase our current Florin Road facility on October 8, 2012. Pastor Daniel Yang has shepherded the church since 2012.



Eternal Life Church worshipping at All Nations SDA—2011

Christian and Missionary Alliance Affiliation...

After much prayer and consideration, Eternal Life Church decided to align itself with the Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA), a denomination focused on evangelizing and discipling persons throughout the United States, incorporating them into Christ-centered community-focused congregations, and mobilizing them for active involvement in a global effort designed to plant Great Commission churches among unengaged, unreached, and responsive peoples world-wide.

In March of 2011, Eternal Life Church was officially recognized as a church plant through CMA's Central Pacific District. As such, ELC has chosen to adopt March 2011 as its official Anniversary date. Through its growth, stability, and spiritual maturity of its congregation as evident by church attendance and tithing, Eternal Life Church was officially accredited an Alliance church through CMA's Central Pacific District on August 26, 2012.



Eternal Life Church at Florin Road—2012





# Eternal Life

## CHURCH

## Mission and Vision Statement

Eternal Life Church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, its Alliance Core Values, and its passion to complete the Great Commission. We believe that the local church is one of God's most powerful instruments to fulfill the Great Commission. Our Mission and Vision Statement speak to who we are as a local church and what we hope to accomplish for the kingdom of God.

### Mission

To be a church that **Seeks, Saves, and Serves**

1. **Seek** God and his peoples
2. **Save** peoples through Christ
3. **Serve** Christ and each other
4. To **Seek, to Save, to Serve** is to **Love**

### Vision

Display the glory of **Christ**.

John 17:22 - I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are.

# Membership

The Governing Board of Eternal Life Church recognizes the fact that people will join the church before being baptized, and although these people will not have voting privileges and will not be asked to serve in any leadership capacity including leading ministries, teaching classes, life groups, etc., they too will be considered members. Eternal Life Church believes that the New Testament churches are made up of believers who are baptized in the Holy Spirit and are therefore united as one Body in Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-30). With this in mind, the primary duty of Eternal Life Church is to bring non-baptized members to a point where they will want to be baptized; and to teach and train baptized members to serve and to lead.

## **1 Corinthians 12:12-30**

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

### Unity and Diversity in the Body

12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. 29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? 30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?



## Eternal Life Church Membership Application

Qualifications for membership shall consist of:

1. Confession of faith in Jesus Christ and evidence of regeneration.
2. Belief in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; in the verbal inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as originally given; in the vicarious atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the eternal salvation of all who believe in Him and eternal punishment of all who reject Him.
3. Acceptance of the doctrines of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King.
4. Full sympathy with the principles and objectives of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and cooperation by systematic support of its work.
5. Such other qualifications for membership as may be stated in the Bylaws.

### Membership Covenant – Bylaw Article III

Recognizing the call to join the priesthood of the believers, I agree to the following and will sign the membership covenant below:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, testify to God and the leadership of the Eternal Life Church that:  
(print name)

1. I recognize an anointing on my life by Jesus Christ.
2. I have prayed to Jesus and have received from Him a calling on my life to enter into membership/ leadership.
3. This calling has been witnessed by the Eternal Life Church.
4. I recognize and accept the responsibility of the Eternal Life Church to hold me completely accountable to this high calling of Jesus.

Therefore I covenant and vow to God in the presence of the Eternal Life Church that I will:

1. Pray for Eternal Life Church to continue in the favor of God;
2. Live my life in surrender to the Holy Spirit by offering my body, mind, money, and time as an offering, committing a tenth or tithe of each to the exclusive service of God, and using the remainder in a manner which will help others see God's Glory, doing nothing which will give even the hint of immorality;
3. Agree to deal with conflict according to the teaching of Jesus and found in Matthew 18
4. In all interaction with other member/leaders, and as many others as grace directs, I will guide my actions by the following principles:
  - 1) I will respect both the other person and his opinion;
  - 2) I will believe that the other person has my best interest at heart; and
  - 3) I will believe that the other person loves Jesus also.
5. In the consideration of all things, I will ask for Jesus to help me love everyone with His love.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor

# Eternal Life CHURCH

## How can you get involved?

Join us for any of these services!

### Sunday Worship Service Schedule

Traditional Service (Hmong)  
9:00 AM—10:00 AM

Contemporary Service (English)  
10:30 AM—12:00 PM

### Wednesday Night Prayer Service

7:00 AM—9:00 PM

Speak to one of the Governing Board members or ministry coordinators at Eternal Life Church and get involved in the ministries!

### Children's Ministry

### Youth's Ministry

### Single's Ministry

### Traditional Ministry (Hmong Speaking)

### Men's Ministry

### Women's Ministry

### Christian Leadership Academy

### Contact Information:

Eternal Life Church of the Christian and Missionary Alliance  
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[www.elc.sacramento.org](http://www.elc.sacramento.org)