



THEALLIANCE

President's Report to District Conferences

Fall 2026

On Mission Together

I write today with deep gratitude for our partnership in bringing the good news of Jesus to our neighborhoods and the nations of the world. Across our Alliance family, you are faithfully serving in a wide variety of contexts. You may be in a densely populated area or a more rural setting. Some of you are serving in rapidly growing churches. Others are faithfully leading through seasons that are harder to measure—seasons of change, uncertainty, or discouragement. Wherever you find yourself, your faithfulness matters. We all share the same calling—to help more people experience the hope, healing, and transforming power of Jesus. Indeed, “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12, NLT).

We are a family *On Mission Together*. We believe every church, every community, and every person matter to God.

How we carry that out makes a difference. As a local pastor, your calling matters deeply. We want to be people who lead with compassion, serve with humility, make disciples intentionally, and remain dependent on the Holy Spirit. Thank you for seeking to follow Jesus like that. I’m honored to be on mission with you.



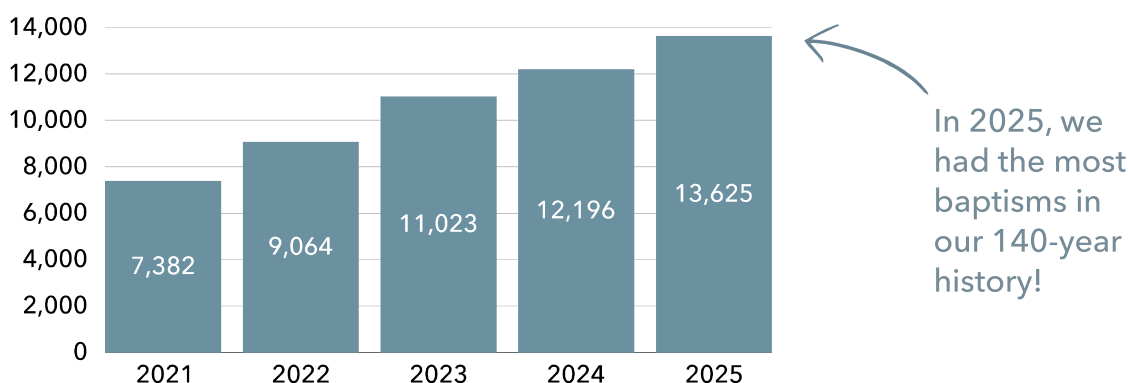
Pulse on the Alliance Family

After I spoke at a recent Alliance gathering, a 23-year-old came up after the service and had a few questions. At the end, he said, “I love my Alliance church and want to know—from your perspective as a leader—why you love The Alliance? Why would you encourage someone to be part of this denominational family?” I was glad for the question! I told him how grateful I am for the camaraderie in our Alliance family, the synergy of working together, the accountability of being in a denomination, and the potential for engaging in global mission far more effectively than going it alone.

In our local ministry contexts, it’s easy to spend most of our time focused on the needs right in front of us—and rightly so. But it’s also encouraging to step back and remember that we are part of something much bigger. Across neighborhoods, cities, and nations, God is at work through the Alliance family.

We celebrate, first of all, that 2025 was a historic year for us! Together, we saw 13,625 individuals declare their faith in Jesus through baptism, the most-ever in our 140-year history. Each one represents a story of God’s grace—a person who was prayed for, invited, disciplined, and welcomed into the family of God. We celebrate every one of those stories, and we give thanks for every pastor, church, and ministry that helped make them possible. What a privilege to join God in His work as more people encounter the hope of the gospel.

Number of Baptisms



In 2025, church attendance—both in-person and online—followed an upward trend. Our in-person attendance was just over 237,000; with online attendance, it’s over 333,000. Between members and adherents, we had almost 410,000 in our inclusive total. Praise God!

Globally, we partner with over 630 Alliance international workers serving around the world through Alliance Missions. In the middle of war and unrest, we are planting churches that are making a significant impact amid danger and uncertainty. When

many organizations are sending workers to already-reached places, The Alliance continues to prioritize advancing the gospel in the least-reached places. In several African countries, national churches have been ravaged by attacks from extremists who have killed many Alliance believers, including a dozen or more pastors. Church buildings have been destroyed and Christians have been displaced, but our colleagues are still faithfully serving and standing strong. All over the world, the Holy Spirit is continuously working, and the Church is trusting the Lord for provision, comfort, and even greater harvest.



Today, there are over 24,000 Alliance churches around the globe. These numbers are encouraging, but they point to something even greater. They remind us that God is still calling workers, building His Church, changing lives, and advancing His mission. Thank you for the role you play in that story every day. Your faithfulness in your local church is part of a much larger work that is reaching people around the world.

Looking Ahead

As we celebrate what God is doing across the Alliance family today, we also look ahead with faith and urgency.

Our Board has spent time reviewing trends and data from the past 20 years of Alliance ministry. The picture is encouraging in some ways and challenging in others. We thank God for lives being transformed, churches faithfully serving their communities, workers being sent, and the gospel advancing in hard places. At the same time, the needs around us continue to grow. There are still communities without a strong gospel witness, people groups without adequate access to Jesus, and leadership gaps that must be addressed if we are going to faithfully fulfill the mission Christ has entrusted to us.

As we considered the future, one question kept coming to the forefront: What will it take for us to fulfill our mission more effectively in the years ahead?

The answer, I believe, can be summarized in four areas where we are asking God to empower us for Kingdom advance: multiplying churches, multiplying workers, multiplying global impact, and multiplying generosity.

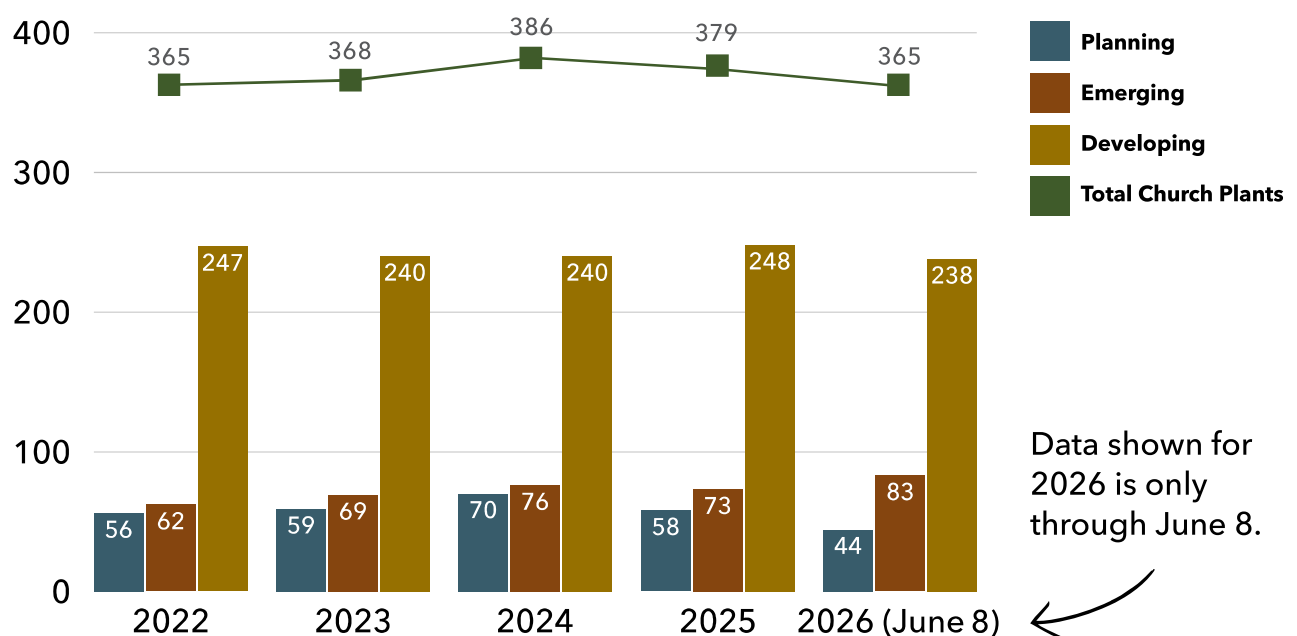
MULTIPLYING CHURCHES

In The Alliance, we want to see the gospel reach more communities across our nation through healthy, outreach-focused churches.

The reality is that church planting across the evangelical landscape has slowed dramatically. Researchers report that more than 52,000 churches were planted in the United States between 2000 and 2010. In the decade that followed, that number dropped to fewer than 8,000 (Daniel Yang statistics presented at Axelerate 2023). Today, across the national evangelical landscape, only 7 percent of established churches are proactively involved in planting other churches (Church Multiplication Institute, “Exponential’s Becoming Five Multiplication Study”). That’s a sobering trend. We are encouraged to report that The Alliance has maintained a 5-year average of 372 church plants across planning, emerging, and developing stages.

Those church plants account for nearly 18 percent of all Alliance churches. This is an encouraging sign of multiplication that we celebrate; however, even as churches are planted throughout the country, the number of churches in The Alliance is declining faster than we multiply. Over the past 5 years, Alliance churches have cumulatively declined by 52 churches for a net loss of -2.6 percent. We believe we can reverse this decline. The 2025 Annual Report indicates that 365 churches are interested in planting new churches. If all of them start a new church or campus, we will see 18 percent of Alliance churches reproducing and reaching their communities with the good news of Jesus. We’re praying that the Lord would stir hearts to plant more churches and campuses.

Church Plants—Planning, Emerging, and Developing (5-year trend)



We believe every community deserves an opportunity to encounter the hope of Jesus. Every church that is planted creates new opportunities for people to hear the gospel, become disciples, and experience Christian fellowship. Church multiplication is one of the most important ways we can extend the gospel into communities that need a healthy, Christ-centered church. Our prayer is to see more churches planted, strengthened, and reproduced.

And this is a movement-wide endeavor. Not every congregation will plant in the same way or in the same season. Some will plant; others will pray, send, mentor, partner, provide resources, or develop leaders. Each has a part to play in helping more people encounter Jesus and become part of a healthy, multiplying family.

To that end, we are prayerfully strategizing with district leaders on how to best multiply a gospel presence in under-served communities. As The Alliance, we want to continue asking what investments, sacrifices, and partnerships are needed to see more churches planted and strengthened in the years ahead.

One more reason to celebrate: we are now a majority-minority denomination! Our growing diversity honors Jesus, gets the attention of a fractured world, and points to the glorious day when there is “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb” (Rev. 7:9). We thank the Lord for this reality in our movement and pray that we will reflect the unity that Jesus prays for in John 17 more and more.

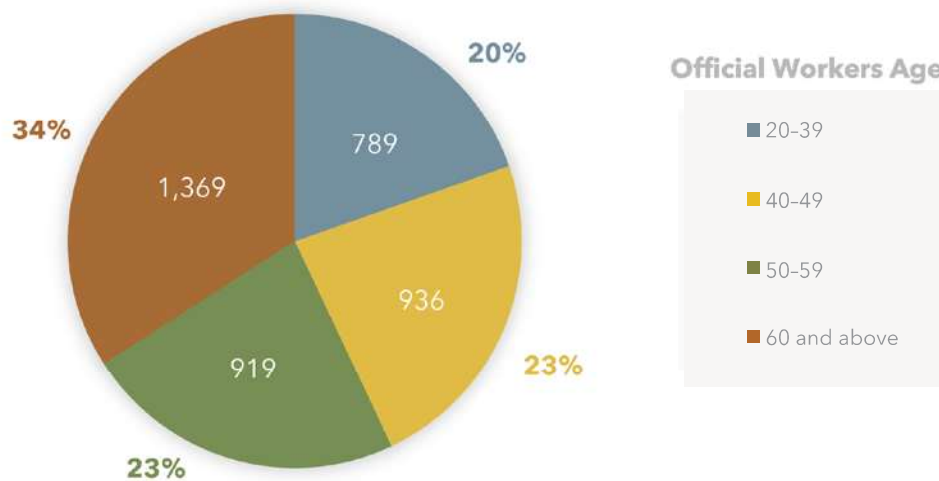


MULTIPLYING WORKERS

As we advance the mission Jesus has entrusted to us, we want to do everything we can to see a multiplication of Spirit-filled, Jesus-loving, Bible-saturated workers. We hear and respond to the Lord's clearly stated vision for this when He said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matt. 9:37-38).

In the U.S., we have just over 4,000 official workers in The Alliance. Many of these faithful servants are getting closer to passing the baton after years of fruitful ministry. We thank God for their faithfulness and pray that they'll enjoy divine health for years to come!

Average Age of Active Official Workers | 2005-2025



As we look ahead, we recognize both the opportunity and responsibility of investing in the next generation of leaders. We must continually ask how we can identify, equip, and deploy these pastors, church planters, missionaries, chaplains, marketplace workers, and ministry leaders who will carry the mission forward.

For many of us, this is already happening in the ministry we do every week: noticing a young person with a calling, giving someone a first opportunity to lead, inviting a developing leader to serve alongside us, or sending someone we have discipled into a new place of ministry. Often, multiplication begins simply by making room for someone else to grow.

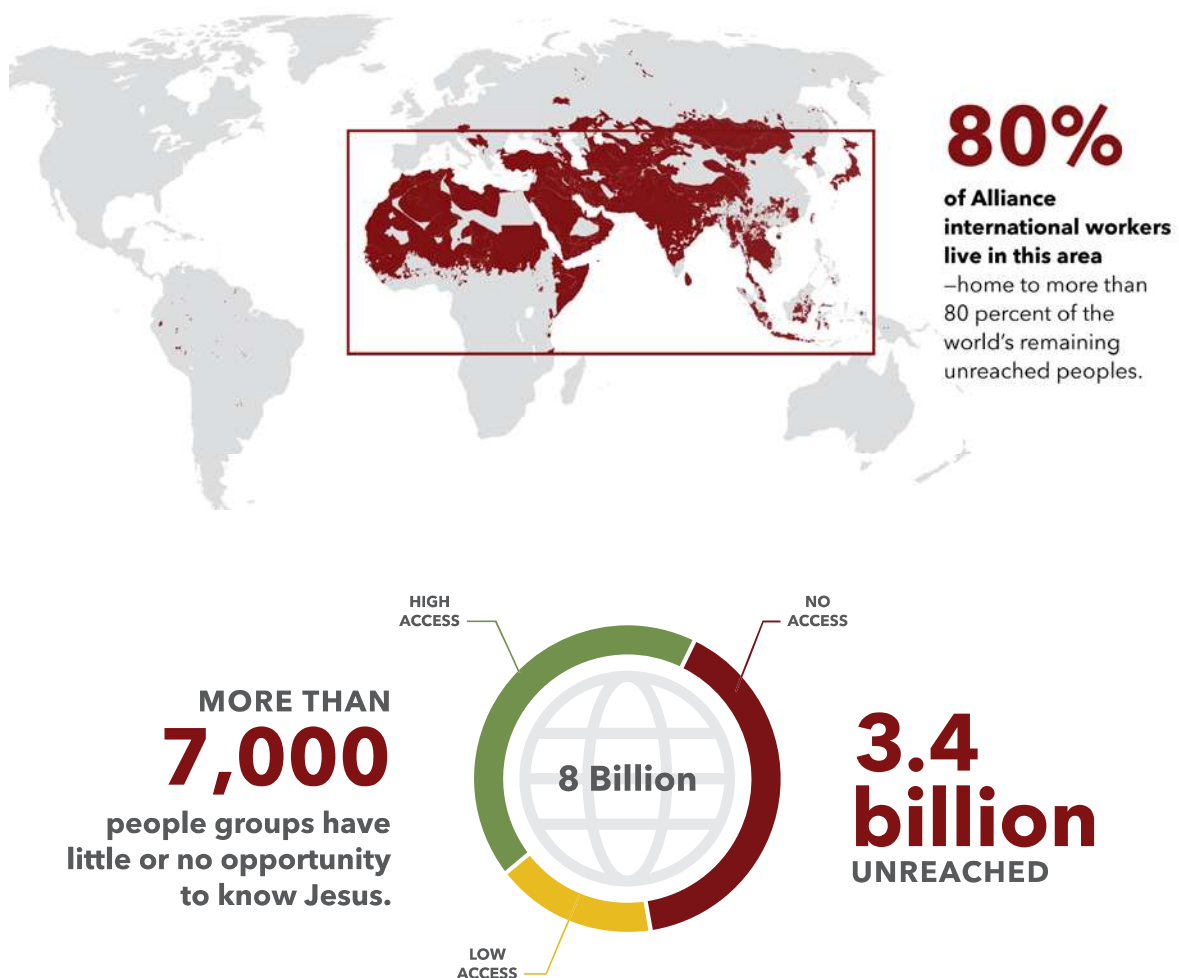
At Council 2027 in Orlando (we'd love for you to join us from May 31-June 4!), we'll highlight some new initiatives to train new workers. Would you pray that Jesus will do more than we can ask or imagine in this area of gospel advance?

MULTIPLYING GLOBAL IMPACT

We have wonderfully identified ourselves as a **Christ-centered, Acts 1:8 family**. We want to see Jesus exalted in our lives and to the ends of the earth. We are in this together, on mission in our own communities and to the least-reached places of the world.

As we look ahead, we are asking God for new levels of sending, new opportunities for partnership, and fresh creativity in reaching places where Christ is not yet known. We want to see more people encounter Jesus, more disciples made, and more churches established among both responsive and unreached peoples. To that end, we want to reverse the downward trend of international workers. There are still billions of people who have little-to-no access to the gospel, and we have the best news ever to share with them.

International Workers Among Unreached People





We want to strengthen our partnership with the other 60 networks of churches in the Alliance World Fellowship (AWF)—we have Alliance ministry in at least 88 countries; 60 of those have organized networks of churches. In many of those places, ministry is being led not only by U.S. Alliance workers but also by national believers and workers sent from other Alliance fellowships around the globe. It is a beautiful reminder that the Great Commission is not the work of one nation or one generation—it is the work of God’s people together.

We are greatly encouraged that 29 of those partner Alliance networks are now sending missionaries . . . with more networks preparing to send. Some of these brothers and sisters in Christ have access to people groups where Americans are prohibited from going. There are more opportunities for being on mission together with these global partners, working together to see the completion of Jesus’ Commission. We’ll highlight some of those opportunities at Council 2027.

AWF AT A GLANCE

- 
6.3 million Alliance believers
- 
60 partner networks
- 
25,000+ local churches
- 
180 languages and dialects

MULTIPLYING GENEROSITY

Finally, fulfilling the mission requires resources.

Throughout our history, Alliance people have responded generously whenever God has called. We continue to see that same spirit today through support for local churches, church planting, global missions and other ministry efforts. Giving to the Great Commission Fund increased this past year by 3.9 percent; we’re grateful for that.

While we celebrate all the ways people have responded to needs and new people engaged in giving, that growth has not kept pace with inflation, international currency exchange

challenges, rising costs of ministry around the world, and the amount of incredible opportunities right in front of us. This reality creates pressure on direct ministry impact.

Looking ahead, we want to see generosity continue to grow—not simply to meet needs, but to fuel gospel advance. Every dollar given represents an act of worship and partnership in the mission. As churches and individuals invest in God’s Kingdom, they help send workers, strengthen ministries, plant churches, and bring the hope of Christ to people who have never heard His name. When that happens, the words of the Apostle Paul are fulfilled: “Your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you” (2 Cor. 9:13–14, NLT).

A Preferred Future

Imagine yourself standing at Council 2035 looking back over the previous decade.

What do you hope to celebrate?

More lives transformed by Jesus. More churches reaching their communities. More workers answering God’s call. More people groups hearing the gospel for the first time. Greater generosity. Stronger partnerships. A deeper dependence on the Holy Spirit.

By God’s grace, that’s the future we are praying for and working toward together. We anticipate the day when the mission is complete and our Coming King returns. What a day that will be!

Whether the fruit is immediately visible or still unfolding, your ministry matters. The people you disciple, the leaders you develop, and the communities you serve are part of what Jesus is doing in and through His Church.

Thank you for your faithfulness. Week after week, as you disciple, mobilize, equip, shepherd, teach and preach, encourage, and serve with whatever gifts have been entrusted to you, you are part of the great story that our Lord Jesus is authoring today.

We are grateful to be on mission together.

Mary and I are praying for you with joy and gratitude.



Jonathan Schaeffer
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C&MA President