

PARENT AFFILIATED CHURCHES DEFINITIONS

Approved by the Executive Presbytery, September 2009

Condensed definition of Assemblies of God Parent Affiliated Churches:

A Parent Affiliated Church (PAC) is an outreach of an existing General Council Affiliated Church or duly authorized District Council Affiliated Church resulting in a worshipping community with a congregational life distinct from the Parent Church (PC). A PAC is subject to the ecclesial supervision and authority of the PC, in such manner, and upon such terms and conditions, as are determined by the PC.

Definition of Assemblies of God Parent Affiliated Churches:

A "Parent Affiliated Church" (PAC) may exist when the following organizational characteristics can be observed:

1. A PAC is a worshipping community started by an existing congregation to reach "unchurched" and "dechurched" peoples within the United States. Unchurched refers to those individuals who have never been affiliated with an existing Christian church. Dechurched refers to those individuals who have previously been a part of a Christian church but are not currently fellowshipping with an existing congregation.
2. Purpose: The purpose of a PAC is specifically directed toward individuals who are restricted by language, social group, geography or other reasons from meaningful participation in the existing congregation.
3. Organization: An officially recognized PAC may be related to the Parent Church (PC) in any combination of connections including: financial, relational, governmental, etc. It is understood that by definition, the PAC is subject to the ecclesial supervision and authority of the PC, in such manner, and upon such terms and conditions, as are determined by the PC.
4. Leadership: A PAC must have a designated leader (not necessarily the primary teacher) who is responsible for maintaining appropriate leadership structures and systems to maximize the organizational health of the PAC.
5. Process: For a PAC to be officially "chartered," a completed PAC Charter form must be submitted by the PC to its District to be signed off on by the District Secretary. The District will then submit the PAC Charter form to the National Office.
6. A PAC is not an overflow service intended to create more seating room in the same location as the main worship service of an existing church. It is not simply a different worship style to create worship options for members of the existing congregation.

The General Secretary of the General Council reserves the right to determine if a particular organizational arrangement qualifies as an officially chartered PAC.