

DEFINITIONS OF ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

PARENT AFFILIATED CHURCHES

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 a Parent Church (PC). A Parent Affiliated Church is subject to the ecclesial supervision and authority of a Parent Church, in such manner, and upon such terms and conditions, as are determined by a Parent Church.AA

Full 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 Parent Affiliated Church 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. An existing district affiliated church may be chartered as a Parent Affiliated Church at the request of the district. An existing self-governing church may also elect to enter into a Parent Affiliated Church agreement with a General Council church or duly authorized district council church.
2. Purpose: The purpose of a Parent Affiliated Church 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 Parent Affiliated Church may be related to a Parent Church (PC) in any combination of connections including: financial, relational, governmental, etc. It is understood that by definition, a Parent Affiliated Church is subject to the ecclesial supervision and authority of a Parent Church, in such manner, and upon such terms and conditions, as are determined by a Parent Church.
4. Leadership: A Parent Affiliated Church 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 a Parent Affiliated Church.
5. Process: For a Parent Affiliated Church to be officially “chartered,” a completed Parent Affiliated Church Charter form must be submitted by a Parent Church to its District to be signed off on by the District Secretary. The District will then submit a Parent Affiliated Church Charter form to the National Office.
6. A Parent Affiliated Church 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 Parent Affiliated Church.