



Welcome Home

*to your Converge Rocky Mountain
family of churches*



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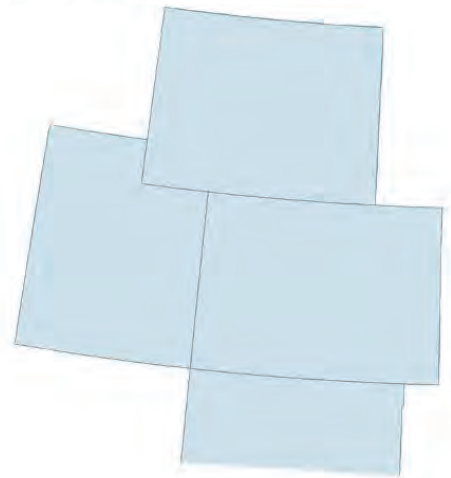
Church Affiliation

Who is Converge Rocky Mountain?

Converge Rocky Mountain is a movement of transformational churches birthed in 1958.

We seek to transform lives and communities by passionately multiplying Jesus-filled believers and congregations in the Rocky Mountain West.

Converge Rocky Mountain is made up of congregations across Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, northern New Mexico, and western Nebraska. Many suggest that this is the second most unchurched region in America. Landscapes are incredibly beautiful, but the majority of the population is in need of a Savior.



Start, Strengthen, Send.

The congregations of Converge Rocky Mountain are empowered by God to:

Start

Strategically launching new congregations and mission initiatives

Strengthen

Equipping leaders to thrive

Send

Engaging cultures here and around the world with compassionate acts of kindness and the life changing message of the Gospel.

Regional Vision

Accurate Bible teaching, powerful worship, and close fellowship are all needed and necessary, but the bottom line: Our effectiveness as a movement must be measured by the spiritual transformation we see in changed lives and changed communities here and around the world.

Our Values

The Rocky Mountain region is made up of a variety of cultures, each with its own unique characteristics. There is, however, a Christ-centered, Bible-based spiritual culture shared by God's people which we express through these common values.

Spiritually Dynamic

We glorify God in all we do, trusting in the authority of his Word, the sufficiency of his Son, the power of the Holy Spirit and his delight in prevailing prayer.

Relationally Devoted

We display Christ's love in our relationships and ministry partnerships, expressing his compassion, generosity and irenic spirit.

Missionally Driven

We multiply transformational churches, reproducing the life of Christ in disciples, leaders and congregations worldwide.

Culturally Diverse

We advance Christ's destiny for his church, a church that reflects the beauty and synergy of worshipers from all people and cultures.

Healthy

Prioritizing "being" over "doing" in the lives of our pastors and congregations.

John 10:10

Generous

Freely sharing God's goodness with others.

2 Corinthians 9:11

Transformational

Believing the power of God's Spirit will bring Christ-like change to our lives, our churches and our communities.

2 Corinthians 3:18

What are the Benefits of Converge Rocky Mountain?

The Heart of Converge

We thank God for the past 170+ years Converge (Baptist General Conference) has existed and for the committed and spiritually sensitive men and women who have helped shape it. We also remember our debt to the Reformation Anabaptist and the Pietist movements.

Because we recognize the richness of our heritage and its relevance for the present day, we seek to identify some of the distinctives that have contributed to our vitality in the past and to reaffirm them as a continuing part of our life and ministry together.

- The Centrality of the Word of God
- The Necessity of Personal Conversion
- A Commitment to Godly Living
- A Witness to the World
- An Active Concern for the Needy
- Strong doctrinal convictions with loving concern for persons of divergent views - Irenic Spirit!

Extend your church's mission & impact

- We partner together to accomplish what we cannot do alone: equipping established churches and teaming together to launch new congregations.
- We connect and serve with the Converge church network internationally, to increase our expertise and effectiveness in spreading the Gospel throughout the world.
- We encourage each other in the joys and the challenges of our shared mission. Your church will join a family of churches that care about you.
- Pastor and ministry leaders throughout the movement will help your team thrive.
- We experience the richness of a culturally diverse movement of churches who work together to reach the expanding ethnic needs within our area.

What are the Benefits of Converge Rocky Mountain?

Engage in equipping events & access leadership assistance

- Individualized church health & church planting consultation
- Network gatherings, seminars, retreats & workshops
- Pastoral soul-care & restorative retreats
- Personal & group coaching programs
- On call assistance for personal leadership emergencies
- On call assistance for conflict resolution, crisis management & strategic planning
- Assistance in ministerial licensing & ordination
- Training and coaching for church financial teams & church boards
- Access to a national chaplaincy program

Draw from resources & tools for church health

- Demographic studies of your local mission field
- Salary & benefits assessment
- Access to hundreds of practical, online training resources
- Loans through our partnership with WIF (Wesleyan Investment Foundation)
- Grants for qualifying church plants
- Pastoral searches & interim pastor placement services
- Assistance in pastoral transitions & succession planning
- Assistance with church revitalization, restarts & mergers
- Converge Rocky Mountain Financial Services for payroll and bookkeeping
- Option of Converge Rocky Mountain serving as your 501c3 tax exemption umbrella
- Legal Document Review and representation by Alliance Defending Freedom
- Youth Ministry Consulting
- Pastor's Wives Support
- Retirement & pension programs

Becoming a Part of Converge Rocky Mountain

What are the expectations of Converge Rocky Mountain churches?

Relationship

Engage in the life of your new movement. Take advantage of shared resources, participate in “family” gatherings, celebrate “God stories,” invest your expertise, and pray for others as others pray for you.

Generosity

All contributions to the shared mission are voluntary but to sustain the work of our movement, we ask local affiliated churches to contribute 1-3% of their annual budget to Converge Rocky Mountain. As we have opportunities for ministry or planning, we will present opportunities to our churches and invite you to participate.

How does your church become a part of Converge Rocky Mountain?

A detailed step-by-step explanation of the process is included in the Appendix of this document.

The basic process is as follows:

Engage & Evaluate

Read through this packet including the detailed affirmations and statement of faith. Connect with us for any questions. We are always eager to answer questions for you and your leadership team.

Affirm & Apply

Complete your church's application to join Converge Rocky Mountain. Our Regional President and Board of Overseers will review your application and evaluate your missional and theological compatibility.

Acceptance & Celebration

Following a detailed review and follow-up on any questions, our Board of Overseers will vote, and your church will be welcomed as an active church in Converge Rocky Mountain. We will celebrate your affiliation at our annual gathering.

Meet our Staff



Paul Mitton
Regional President



Drew Tarwater
Director of Church
Strengthening



Loren Pankratz
VP of Church Planting



Jill Bryant
Finance Manager



Chris Van Inwagen
Director of Pastoral Care



Laura Callison
Executive Assistant

Our ministry is overseen by our Board of Overseers who are representative pastoral and lay leaders from our region.

Partnerships

Youth Ministry Consultants
Consulting

Alliance Defending Freedom
Legal

Alongside Ministries
Ministry Wives

Brotherhood Mutual
Property, Liability & Casualty

Mission Hills Association
Lead Pastor Support

PreSearch
Background Checks

Affiliation Process: Detailed Overview

Your regional affiliation will be with Converge Rocky Mountain, and your national/international affiliation will be with Converge. Converge Rocky Mountain is Baptist in our heritage and Biblical understanding.

Affiliation Agreements

Churches are eligible for affiliation in Converge Rocky Mountain upon the following conditions:

1. The church shall subscribe, without reservation, to the Converge Affirmation of Faith (see Appendix).
2. The church shall affirm Converge Rocky Mountain's mission, vision and values (see Appendix).
3. The church shall practice Baptist polity, having some form of congregational governance.
4. The church shall practice believer's baptism by immersion.
5. The church shall actively participate in the mission and ministries of Converge Rocky Mountain and Converge through regular financial investment (1-3% of its annual budget) and participate in the life of the district with regular prayer.
6. The church shall include Converge Rocky Mountain in the dissolution clause of its Constitution and By-Laws.

Admission into Converge Rocky Mountain

Upon a vote of the local church's membership at a duly announced business meeting or governing board and following written request, any church may be accepted into the fellowship of Converge Rocky Mountain and Converge, provided the status of said church has been reviewed and approved by the Converge Rocky Mountain Overseers. A church accepted into the fellowship of Converge Rocky Mountain automatically becomes a member of Converge. The church will be welcomed publicly at the next Converge Rocky Mountain Annual Meeting.

The Converge Rocky Mountain Application provides information and documentation about your church, history, beliefs and vision. It will assist Converge Rocky Mountain leaders in getting to know your congregation and affirms our common desire to partner together to reach the world for Christ.

Affiliation Process: Detailed Overview

We will then work together to help you build a support network of partner church which will assist your church in becoming what God has destined you to become. While we have some unifying distinctives, every congregation is encouraged to follow the unique calling God has given you to reach your community.

Affiliation Process

1. Contact the district office and have an initial conversation with a district staff member.
2. Meet with a district staff member in person to have an in-depth conversation to discuss the values of a formal partnership.
3. Set up a meeting with the Regional President or his associate to connect with your church's leadership team to discuss missional/theological compatibility as well as the values of a formal partnership.
4. Complete and submit the Affiliation application along with the supporting documents listed (do the following sections need to be capitalized?):
 - a. Existing Constitution/By-laws
 - b. Other Governing Documents
 - c. Any Incorporation Documents
 - d. Doctrinal Statement
 - e. If disaffiliating from another association or denomination, please provide appropriate documentation.
5. The application and supporting documents will be reviewed by the Converge Rocky Mountain Ministry team.
6. The Regional President will connect with Pastor and/or governing board to review submission to address any gaps or inconsistencies with Converge (if any).
7. Once all issues have been addressed, the Converge Rocky Mountain Board of Overseers will vote to approve the affiliation at the next Converge Rocky Mountain Board of Overseers meeting.

Affiliation Process: Detailed Overview

Procedure for IRS inclusion under Converge tax exemption umbrella

1. Affiliating church submits formal letter (on church letterhead with church address visible):
 - a. Request for inclusion by pastor or board leader with signature
 - b. Affiliation date (date of the vote by requesting church)
 - c. Name of District – Converge Rocky Mountain
 - d. Copy of letter from IRS assigning current EIN

2. Submit to:

office@convergerockymountain.org
620 Southpark Drive
Littleton, CO 80120

Appendix

Converge Rocky Mountain Mission, Vision, Values & Affirmation of Faith

Mission

At Converge we talk often about being better together. Since 1889, we have seen generations of churches, leaders and missionaries join forces through God's power to accomplish the impossible. The command of Christ to "go and make disciples" resonates in our hearts and resounds from our pulpits. It is evidenced in the ministries of our congregations and our mission fields.

What brings us together for all this activity is much greater than our compelling mission. What brings us together is the cross. The completed work of Christ on the cross resulted in the removal of guilt and the forgiveness of sin. On the cross, Christ accomplished our redemption and reconciliation and restored our right relationship with God. The cross is a reminder of the good news that Christ has risen and that Satan, sin and the grave have been defeated. As a result, we have been given the overwhelming privilege of telling the world about the love and power of God.

Converge Rocky Mountain is committed to starting and strengthening churches by equipping, encouraging and deploying transformational leaders of all ages. We engage churches to transform their communities by reproducing disciples and leaders who start more churches.

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Converge Rocky Mountain Mission, Vision, Values & Affirmation of Faith

Values

Spiritually dynamic

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Generous

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Converge Rocky Mountain Mission, Vision, Values & Affirmation of Faith

Affirmation of Faith

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

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Converge Rocky Mountain Mission, Vision, Values & Affirmation of Faith

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Christian Marriage

We believe that Christian marriage is a sacred institution ordained by God for the well-being of humankind and the propagation of the human race. It is the spiritual and physical union of only one genetic man to only one genetic woman according to Scripture.

10. 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.

11. Religious Liberty

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith. We believe that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

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Converge Rocky Mountain Mission, Vision, Values & Affirmation of Faith

12. Church Cooperation

We believe that local churches can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by cooperating with one another in a denominational organization. Such an organization, whether it is the Conference or a district conference, 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.

13. 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.

The Board of Overseers is the final interpreter of matters pertaining to the Affirmation of Faith. Adopted by the Baptist General Conference in 1951, reaffirmed in 1990 and amended.

Appendix

Converge Rocky Mountain Statement of Ministerial Ethics

The following standards are set forth in an effort to create professional understanding and to preserve the dignity, maintain the discipline and promote the integrity of our chosen profession—the ministry of Jesus Christ.

My Person

- I will endeavor to pray daily, to read, study and meditate upon God's Word and to maintain extended times of contemplation.
- I will plan times to be with my family, realizing my special relationship to them and their position as important members of my congregation.
- I will seek to keep my body physically fit through proper eating habits and planned exercise, renewing myself through weekly time off and vacations.
- I will try to keep myself emotionally fit, keeping in touch with my feelings and growing in healthy control of them. I will strive to grow through comprehensive reading and participation in professional educational opportunities.
- I will be a servant of God seeking to maintain a life of purity, integrity and truthfulness.
- I will avoid lust, pornography and sexual sin.
- I will not abuse my own body, and I will avoid addictions of all kinds.
- I will not emotionally, verbally, physically or sexually abuse my spouse, my children or any other person. I will seek professional help promptly when I need personal support or intervention.
- I will seek to develop accountable relationships with one or more of my peers of the same gender.

My Calling

- I will seek to conduct myself consistently with my calling and commitment as a servant of God.
- I will give priority to my congregation, and I will accept added responsibilities only if they do not interfere with the overall effectiveness of my ministry in the congregation.
- I will consider a confidential statement made to me as a sacred trust.
- I will responsibly exercise the freedom of the pulpit, speaking the truth of God's Word with conviction in love, and I will acknowledge any extensive use of material prepared by someone else.

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Converge Rocky Mountain Statement of Ministerial Ethics

My Finances

- I will advocate adequate compensation for my profession, and I will assist the congregation in understanding that a minister should not expect or require fees for pastoral services to them.
- I will be honest in my stewardship of money: paying bills promptly and asking no personal favors or discounts on the basis of my professional status.
- I will give tithes and offerings as a good steward.

My Congregation

- I will seek to regard all persons in the congregation with equal love and concern, and I will undertake to minister impartially to their needs and refrain from behavior that will be divisive.
- I will treat all those in the church with dignity and respect, while retaining the right to establish close friendships within the congregation.
- I will exercise confidence in the lay leadership, assisting in their training and mobilizing their creativity.
- I will seek to lead the church in a positive direction. I will remain open to constructive criticism and to suggestions intended to strengthen our common ministry.
- I will candidate at only one church at a time. I will respond promptly and definitely to a call, and I shall seek to deal fairly with the church I am presently serving.

My Colleagues

- I will seek to maintain supportive, caring and accountable relationships with my colleagues in the ministry. I will seek and honor all commitments made with other pastors, and I will respect the pastoral relationships that my neighboring pastors have with their parishioners.
- I will, upon my departure, sever my pastoral relations with the congregation, recognizing that all pastoral functions should henceforth rightfully be conducted by my successor. I will not agree to perform any pastoral services in a church I have previously served until I have first obtained permission from the current pastor.
- I will, upon retirement or withdrawal from the ministry, refrain from engaging in pastoral functions within our church fellowship unless requested by the pastor.

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Converge Rocky Mountain Statement of Ministerial Ethics

My Association with Converge Rocky Mountain

- I will cooperate with the personnel of Converge and of the district in which I serve. I will offer responsible criticism in order that our common service in the kingdom of God might be more effective. In the event that I seriously violate the vows I have made to God and my church, I will submit to the restoration/reconciliation process established by Converge Rocky Mountain and my church. Furthermore, I will use my influence to affirm and edify the fellowship of this church and Converge Rocky Mountain.

