

ACCREDITATION INTERVIEW

STUDY GUIDE

ALLIANCE_{NW}

Welcome to the Accreditation Interview Study Guide!

You will find this document helpful as you prepare for your accreditation interview, so please review it and be prepared to answer the questions throughout. The interview likely will not include every question listed below nor be limited to only these questions if others seem appropriate in the course of the conversation.

The core purpose for the accreditation interview is to evaluate your grasp of biblical and theological concepts and alignment with Alliance values and distinctives. Therefore, the focus of this study guide is to help you prepare for the biblical/theological content covered in the interview. Prior to your interview we encourage you to use this study guide to conduct one or more mock interviews with your mentor, your elders, and/or another ordained/consecrated pastor.

A secondary purpose for the accreditation interview is to examine your personal life (including marriage & family), your call to ministry, and your understanding of Alliance polity. Therefore, in addition to the biblical/theological questions listed below, you will find a brief guide on the last page to help you prepare for this portion of the interview.

The outcome of a satisfactory understanding of the biblical/theological content, clear alignment with the Alliance, evidence of God's calling to vocational ministry, and demonstration of maturity in your leadership and family life, means you are licensable for vocational ministry in the Alliance.

We prayerfully desire to see you succeed in this process.

If you have any questions along this process, don't hesitate to reach out to Kristy Wells or myself at the Field Office.

God Bless you as you start this exciting adventure!

Jason Simmonds
Leadership Development, LOC & Networks

Jason Simmonds
jason@alliancenw.org
503-685-9160

Kristy Wells
kristy@allaincenw.org
503-685-9160

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The Interview

Interview

What to Expect

In the biblical/theological portion of the interview the interviewers will be looking for the following:

1. Your level of understanding and ability to articulate theological concepts.
2. Your use of scripture to support each answer. (i.e. 3-5 supporting texts using both the OT and NT, where applicable.)
3. The degree to which your answers flow from a clear understanding and experience with the biblical text. They are hoping for a fluid conversation around each theological topic versus an approach driven by rote memorization. (Naturally some questions/concepts lean more in this direction than others)

Use Your Bible

Remember, you are free to use your Bible—in fact it is expected you will. Your interviewers will expect you to both refer to and take them directly to the scriptures that support your answers. Generally, they are hoping you will be able to demonstrate a familiarity with the biblical text as the conversation moves from one topic to the next. Reliance on a concordance or other study aids will not be permitted.

Sample Q & A's

Below are two examples of the kind of answers your interviewers are looking for.

Sample #1

What is the biblical basis for the doctrine of the Trinity, the belief that God exists “in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit”?

We see evidence of this doctrine throughout the OT and NT. In the creation account while God was creating the heavens and the earth, the Holy Spirit was present as well.

- Genesis 1:1-2 says, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters...*”
- Then in Genesis 1:26, God makes reference to himself in the plural. “*Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...*”
- In Matthew 3:15-17 at the baptism of Jesus all three persons of the Trinity are actively involved. It reads, “*As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”*”
- Likewise, in the Great Commission passage of Matthew 28:18-20 we are commanded to go make disciples in the name of the triune God. “*...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...*”

The language suggests that each possesses the same authority by which we are sent. Furthermore, the use of the singular word ‘name’ in reference to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, indicates a unity (a oneness) within the Threeness.

- In Acts 5:3-4 Peter confronts Ananias, “*How is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit...? You have not lied to men but to God.*” The apostle Peter clearly equates the Holy Spirit with God.
- And finally in 1 Peter 1:2 Peter makes reference to each person of the Trinity in this single verse, saying, “*(We) have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by His blood.*”

Again, each person of the Godhead is referred to as being equal in authority and in divine relationship to those who are chosen.

Sample #2

What is the biblical basis for the confession, “There is one God”?

We see evidence of this doctrine throughout the OT and NT.

- In Deuteronomy 6:4 it says, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Clearly, Israel worshiped God, the LORD, as one.

- In the NT letter of 1 Corinthians 8:4-6 we read, “We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. For even if there are so-called gods...yet for us there is but one God...”
- Likewise, we read in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.”
- In Ephesians 4:4-6 it says, “There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

Each of these texts confirms the apostle Paul’s teaching that there is but one God.

- Also we find this to be the case in James 2:19 where the apostle James says, “You believe that there is one God. Good!”

So while there is only one God, he exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each of the same essence.

Biblical/Theological Questions

Note: The Key Scriptures listed in each section are not intended to be exhaustive nor exclusive. You are not expected to use these lists entirely nor to the exclusion of others. You may use other scriptures that are meaningful to you.

| The Holy Scriptures | |
|---|---|
| Questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Define and distinguish between revelation, inspiration, and illumination.2. Define and distinguish between natural revelation and special revelation.3. What is the relationship between Scripture and divine guidance?4. What does the term “scriptural inerrancy” mean to you?5. Explain how Scripture is relevant to the average person in your church. | Key Scriptures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2 Timothy 3:16○ 2 Peter 1:20-21○ Hebrews 4:12○ Psalm 19:1-2, 119:11, 119:105○ John 10:35○ Romans 1:18-32, 2:14-16○ Acts 14:15-17, 17:22-31 |

The Trinity

Questions:

6. What is the biblical basis for the doctrine of the Trinity, the belief that God exists “in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit”?
7. What is the biblical basis for the confession, “*There is one God*”?
8. What is the biblical basis and significance of Jesus being “*begotten not made*” and the Holy Spirit as “*proceeding from the Father and the Son*”?
9. What contemporary religious groups oppose the traditional doctrine of the Trinity and how do you answer their arguments?

Key Scriptures:

- Genesis 1:1-2; 2:26
- Deuteronomy 6:4
- Matthew 3:16-17, 28:18-20
- John 17:20-26
- Acts 5:3-4
- Romans 15:30
- 1 Corinthians 8:4-6, 12:4-6
- 2 Corinthians 3:17
- Ephesians 4:4-6
- 1 Timothy 1:17, 2:5-6
- Hebrews 9:14
- James 2:19
- 1 Peter 1:2

The Person of God

Questions:

10. What is the basis for the Christian belief that God is a person?
11. Name some of the attributes of God and give a few scriptural incidents that reveal these attributes.
12. Explain the meaning of “*holy*” in reference to God and explain why it underlies all else in the character of God.
13. What is your belief concerning God, creationism, and evolution?

Key Scriptures:

Person of God

- Genesis 1:1, 1:26
- Jeremiah 9:23-24
- Psalm 145:18
- John 3:16
- Romans 3:22, 3:25
- 1 John 1:1-4

Attributes of God

- Leviticus 11:44-45
- 1 Samuel 2:2, 6:26
- 1 Chronicles 28:9
- Job 42:2
- Psalm 25:3, 33:11, 89:14, 90:2, 99, 102:12, 106:1, 121:1-2, 139:2, 139:7-8, 145:18, 147:5
- Isaiah 42:5
- Jeremiah 23:23-24
- Matthew 5:48
- John 3:16, 10:28-29
- Romans 8:28
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
- Hebrews 13:8
- James 1:17
- 1 Peter 1:15-16
- 1 John 4:7-21

The Person of Christ

Questions:

14. What are some of the names of Christ given in Scripture?
15. Do you believe Jesus is Lord? Why?
16. Is Christ eternal? (Does he have beginning or end?) How do you know?
17. Give examples of the person of Christ in the Old Testament.
18. What biblical evidence is there that Christ was conscious of His deity?
19. What is the Scriptural foundation for believing Christ had both a divine nature and a human nature?
20. Why are both natures essential to the person of Christ?

Key Scriptures:

Names

- Isaiah 9:6
- Matthew 1:22, 7:21, 9:6
- John 1:1-3, 8:58, 10:36
- Revelation 22:13

Eternality, Supremacy & Divine/Human Nature

- John 1:1-18, 1:30, 17:5
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Colossians 1:15-20
- Hebrews 1:1-4, 1:11-12, 2:14-18

Preincarnate

- Genesis 16, 18, 19, 22, 31
- Judges 6

Conscious of Divine Nature

- Matthew 9:2, 28:18-20
- Luke 5:17-26
- John 11:25, 14:5-14, 17:20-26

The Person of the Holy Spirit

Questions:

21. Give examples from both the OT and NT of the qualities and ministries possible only for a person, which are attributed to the Holy Spirit?
22. Give us a brief explanation of the Scriptural teaching on the gifts of the Spirit.
23. How would you differentiate between the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit?
24. What does Scripture teach concerning the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the filling with the Holy Spirit?

Key Scriptures:

Holy Spirit / Gifts / Fruit

- Isaiah 11:2, 63:10
- John 14:15-26, 16:7-15
- Acts 1:8, 5:3-5, 10:38
- Romans 12
- 1 Corinthians 12-14
- Galatians 5:16-26
- Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:11-13, 4:30, 5:18
- Titus 3:5
- Hebrews 9:14

Baptism & Filling

- Matthew 3:11
- Mark 1:8
- Luke 3:16
- Acts 4:8-31, 6:3, 9:17, 11:15-18, 11:24, 13:9
- 1 Corinthians 12:13
- Ephesians 5:18

The Atonement

Questions:

25. Give a brief explanation of the teaching of Scripture on the atonement.
26. Is there any limitation concerning who may benefit from the atonement of Christ?
27. Is the atonement effective in human lives where the gospel is unknown?
28. What aspect of man's condition made the atonement necessary?
29. What assurance do we have that the offering was acceptable to God and why?

Key Scriptures:

- Leviticus 16:30
- Isaiah 53:4-6
- John 1:29, 3:16-18, 11:49-53
- Acts 4:12
- Romans 3:10, 3:23-25, 5:6-11
- Titus 2:14
- Hebrews 2:9, 2:14-18, 4:15-16, 7:23-25, 9:11-28, 10:1-25
- 1 Peter 3:18
- Revelation 5:9

Justification & Regeneration

Questions:

30. Define and contrast justification and regeneration, and give a brief explanation of the teaching of Scripture on the two.
31. Who performs the work of regeneration?
32. What is the nature of the change brought about by regeneration?
33. What is the continuing purpose of regeneration in one's personal life?

Key Scriptures:

- Genesis 15:6
- Deuteronomy 30:6
- Isaiah 57:15
- Ezekiel 36:26
- John 1:12-13, 3:3-8
- Romans 3-5, 8:1-30
- 1 Corinthians 6:11
- 2 Corinthians 3:3, 5:17
- Galatians 2:16, 3:6-24
- Ephesians 2:1
- Philippians 3:9
- Titus 3:4-7
- 1 Peter 1:3
- 1 John 4:7

Sanctification

Questions:

34. Define sanctification.
35. What is the relationship between justification, regeneration, and sanctification?
36. What is the practical significance of sanctification to the Christ-follower's lifestyle?
37. What is meant by positional sanctification and progressive sanctification, and how is "crisis" connected to the two?
38. What does the Scriptural phrase "*dead to sin and alive to God*" mean, and in what way is this true for the believer?
39. What is meant by the phrase "*the indwelling Christ*?"
40. What are scriptural evidences of a sanctified life?

Key Scriptures:

- Ezekiel 36:25-27
- John 16:7-11
- Acts 1:8
- Romans 6:1-14, 8:29, 12:1-2
- 1 Corinthians 1:2
- Galatians 2:20, 5:22-25
- Ephesians 4:22-24, 5:18-21
- Colossians 1:26-29, 2:6-7, 3:1-17
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, 5:23-24
- Hebrews 10:14

Healing

Questions:

41. Explain the biblical basis for healing and its relationship to the redemptive work of Christ.
42. What instruction does James 5 teach in relation to healing?
43. Explain the difference between the “*gift of healing*” and the anointing and prayer ministry for the sick in James 5. Include an explanation of “*the prayer of faith*”.
44. How would you counsel a believer who has followed the instructions of James 5 and is still seeking a miraculous healing?
45. How is the problem of sin related to the problem of sickness?
46. What is the difference between miraculous healing and divine life for the believer?

Key Scriptures:

- Exodus 15:26
- Isaiah 53:4-5
- Matthew 8:14-17, 10:5-8
- Mark 7:24-30
- Acts 3:1-10
- 1 Corinthians 12:9
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- James 5:13-16

The Return of the Lord

Questions:

47. What biblical passages have been major factors in developing your convictions concerning the second coming of Christ and related events?
48. How will the second coming of Christ differ from His first coming?
49. What are the differences between premillennialism, post-millennialism, and amillennialism, and which view do you hold and why?
50. What major events will occur during and after the millennium?
51. Describe the basic tribulation positions and what is your position?
52. What does the term “the imminent return of Christ” mean to you and what Scriptural foundation do you have for your understanding?
53. What is the relationship between Israel and the Church?

Key Scriptures:

- Psalm 2
- Zechariah 14:9
- Daniel 7:14
- Matthew 6:10, 19:28, 24:14-36
- Luke 19:11-27, 21:27
- Acts 1:11
- Romans 11
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 5:1-4
- Titus 2:11-14
- Hebrews 10:37
- Revelation 20-21

The Resurrection

Questions:

54. Do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and why?
55. How important is the doctrine of the resurrection to the Christian faith?
56. What are the essential points of Paul's teaching on the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15?
57. What happens to the believer and the unbeliever when they are resurrected?
58. Explain the doctrine of heaven?

Key Scriptures:

Resurrection

- Luke 24
- John 5:28-29, 11:25, 20
- Acts 2:24
- 1 Corinthians 15
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Hebrews 9:27
- 1 Peter 1:3

Heaven

- Deuteronomy 26:15
- Isaiah 66:1
- Matthew 6:9, 10, 20
- Luke 10:20
- John 14:2
- Revelation 7:9-17

The Lostness of Man

Questions:

59. According to Scripture, what is the inevitable result of lostness?
60. What is the destiny of those who die outside of Christ having never heard the gospel?
61. What does the Bible teach about hell, and is it literal?
62. Is there any possibility of salvation after death?

Key Scriptures:

- Genesis 6:5
- Psalm 53:3
- Proverbs 20:9
- Isaiah 53:6
- Matthew 13:30, 24:40, 25:32-46
- Luke 16:19-31, 17:34, 19:10
- John 3:18
- Romans 1-3, 5:12
- Ephesians 2:1-3
- Hebrews 9:27
- Revelation 22:15

The Doctrine of the Church

Questions:

63. What is the Church and what are some of the metaphors used in Scripture to describe the Church?
64. What is the Scriptural mission of the Church?
65. What is the purpose and function of the local church assembly?
66. What is the biblical basis for reproducing/growing the church?
67. What is the Scriptural procedure for church discipline?
68. What is the role of the pastor in church leadership?
69. What are the Scriptural qualifications and functions of elders/church leaders?

Key Scriptures:

- Matthew 16:13-20, 18:15-17, 24:14, 28:18-20
- Acts 1:8, 2:41-47
- 1 Corinthians 3:11, 12:12-27
- Galatians 6:1-4
- Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 3:10
- 1 Timothy 3-5
- 2 Timothy 2:2
- Titus 1:5-9
- Hebrews 10:24-25
- 1 Peter 2:4-12, 5:1-4
- Revelation 19:7

Note: The Key Scriptures listed in each section are not intended to be exhaustive nor exclusive. You are not expected to use these lists entirely nor to the exclusion of others. You may use other scriptures that are meaningful to you.

Additional Topics

In addition to the biblical/theological questions listed above you will be asked a variety of questions in the following areas. Some sub topics have been included for your convenience. Your mentor should be able to provide you with sample questions or ask similar questions in your mock interviews to adequately prepare you for these areas.

Personal Life & History

- Describe your home life & childhood.
- Describe the significant spiritual experiences in your life.
- How do you nurture your marriage & family life?
- What is your attitude and current status toward personal financial indebtedness?
- How do you handle matters of personal integrity? (i.e. pornography; opposite gender)
- What do your spiritual rhythms/practices look like?

Ministry Background & Calling

- Give an overview of your ministry experience.
- Describe your experience of determining God's call to vocational ministry.
- What strengths & weaknesses have emerged in your early years of ministry?

Mission and Vision of the C&MA

- What is the mission of the C&MA?
- How are you personally involved in this mission?
- How does your church participate in the mission of the Alliance?
- Explain how the global effort of the Alliance is supported financially.

Alliance Church Government (Polity)

- Describe the organizational structure of the Alliance including the national office, field (district), and local church governance structure.
- Describe the relationship of the local church to the field (district), national office, and to Council.

Constituted Authority in the C&MA

- What is the scriptural basis for 'constituted authority'?
- What does it look like to be subject to those in authority over you?
- Describe the relationship between the pastor and the governance authority of the local church.
- Have you read and do you support the Alliance 'Statement of Faith' and the other statements in Section H of the Manual of the C&MA?

Pastoral Ministry and Personal Relationships

- From a biblical basis describe the role of a pastor.
- How would you deal with conflict between you and another leader in your church?
- Describe the role of prayer in your personal life and the life of your church.
- Describe how you manage and balance work time and personal time.