



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Alliance Church names new Senior Pastor; celebrates outgoing Senior Pastor's exceptional 25 years of service

APPLETON, Wis. – January 23, 2022 – Alliance Church will name [Rev. Brian Episcopo](#) as new Senior Pastor, effective Feb. 1, 2022. An honorary event for the current senior pastor, Dr. Dennis Episcopo is [open to the public on Jan. 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.](#) at Alliance Church in Grand Chute.

"Every time I go into the office or get on our stage, I feel the incredible honor of serving the families and the church who raised me," says Rev. Brian Episcopo. "I am a beneficiary of the Fox Cities—our educators, our community leaders, and our church leaders—and the amazing work God can do through a local church."

Alliance Church's Governing Board selected Rev. Episcopo after a detailed search process that began more than 10 years ago. They explored 1.) priorities that keep Alliance Church's vision on track, 2.) a thorough search of leading candidates, both internal and external, and 3.) God's direction for the church's future as they "pass the baton" to the next generation of leaders.

"Pastor Brian quickly emerged as the most qualified candidate," says Steve Burkhardt, Board Chair of the Elder Board for Alliance Church. "We received endorsements of his talents and abilities from our [external leadership-transition consultants](#), our District Superintendent, Rev. [Jeff Brown](#), and by the Christian and Missionary Alliance president, Rev. John Stumbo. As one of the largest churches in the Christian and Missionary Alliance, these endorsements only further confirmed our decision."

Rev. Brian Episcopo's qualifications include a calling that fits the church's vision, gifted preaching, collaborative leadership style and a Christ-centered passion, all of which contributed to his success leading in a variety of roles at Alliance Church, including Student Ministries, Community Congregations, and his dynamic Sunday morning preaching. Rev. Episcopo grew up in Alliance Church, serving on staff for more than 10 years. Son of current Senior Pastor, Dr. Episcopo, Rev. Episcopo has a front-row understanding of a church of this size and its unique DNA.

Dr. Episcopo will remain on staff in the church as Pastor Emeritus, which will further a healthy passing of wisdom and experience for the leadership. Dr. Episcopo's contributions to the church since his arrival in 1997 are quite notable; growing the church from an average Sunday morning attendance of 650 people to more than 4,000 attendees every Sunday in 2019.

With Dr. Episcopo's arrival came what he calls a "God-sized vision." His desire to reach the world with the message of Jesus Christ began in Appleton as he launched a campaign to "make room," leading to the current 160,000 square-foot facility on Appleton's north side. Under his leadership, the church also initiated global mission partnerships as well the launch of a free-and-charitable medical clinic, Hope Clinic.

"These past 25 years have been nothing short of an absolute privilege for me," says Dr. Dennis Episcopo. "I sincerely believe Alliance Church has just begun to scratch the surface of becoming a national and global influence for Christ, and Pastor Brian is God's man for the job."

"We're excited to watch our growth continue," says Burkhardt. "Our vision will remain the same: Connecting the world with God and one another. We believe God will use Pastor Brian to continue that work here in the Fox Cities and around the world."

For more information about senior leadership transition and scheduled public transition events, visit alliancechurch.org/transition. For more information about Alliance Church, visit alliancechurch.org.

Founded in 1932, Alliance Church is a Fox Cities-based church and member of the Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination. They have physical locations in Appleton and Hortonville, as well an online streaming experience for Appleton's Sunday services. Alliance Church exists to connect the world with God and one another. Committed to loving the local community, Alliance Church started a free-and-charitable health clinic and is grateful to partner with the many effective non-profits and churches that serve the Fox Cities. The church is made up of many different people from all generations and backgrounds, but united around God's love for the entire world. For more information, visit alliancechurch.org.

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