

October 11, 2023



Dear ACP Members,

As we approach the membership renewal period for the Associated Church Press, I wanted to let you know about some of the exciting happenings at the association and include a few updates.

The ACP is entering its 108th year of continuous service to faith-based journalists and publishers, and we're happy to say our organization remains strong. Although there has been a small reduction in member publications in the last five years, several new publications have come on board and are bringing new life to our group. New focus areas and the expansion of digital distribution have introduced diversity in many ways.

We are currently compiling a list of monthly webinar guests and topics to introduce some of these new efforts and hope you will attend. Additionally, our 2024 convention will be held in Chicago on May 15-17, focusing on journalistic topics and strategies needed in this ever-changing landscape.

One of the prospects we see in the overall changes to the publishing world is the opportunity to restructure our membership model and pricing.

From its inception, the Associated Church Press was a publication-centered organization with its membership structure based on print publication circulation. In the early 2000s, an effort was made to accommodate members with adjacent or supplementary digital publications, even a few digital-only publications, and individual memberships. At the time, we could not have anticipated the rapid shift to digital publication and distribution, online subscriptions taking a bite out of print circulation, and models of free ad-supported digital distribution.

To accommodate this new reality, after much study and consultation, the board is opting to move away from the circulation-based structure for membership and into a full-time equivalent (FTE) model for membership for 2024. Organizations similar to the ACP charge between US\$105 and US\$175 per individual. We still want to honor publications as our primary membership. Still, we will ask each of you to self-report your FTE count, including publishing, editorial, design, visual, administrative, advertising, and distribution staff, so that we can structure your membership correctly.

Individual memberships will be reserved for freelancers or those not directly representing a publication. Single employees or volunteers who work to produce a publication will continue to be counted as publication staff members and should register as publications, not individuals.

We understand this change will increase the membership level for some publications – primarily digital publications and news services that have been paying the lowest publication membership rate for many years, with no accounting for their staff size or reach. For others, we anticipate your print distribution may exceed your staff count, and they will receive a reduced membership cost.

The board and I are excited about the work we are doing at the Associated Church Press and look forward to working with and learning from you over the coming years.

Sincerely,

John Thomas III, Ph.D.
Board President, the Associated Church Press