



Michigan Chi Alpha (XA)

“First Steps in Starting a Chi Alpha”

Church/Volunteer Leaders

“Every Campus...

Every Student...

Whatever it takes...

Wherever it leads!”

Aug. 2016 Edition

Michigan Chi Alpha (XA)

First of all, **THANK YOU** for taking the time to inquire about what it takes to start up a Chi Alpha at your local college campus!

We have a passion and vision to go to **“Every Campus... Every Student”** here in Michigan. However, that simply will not happen unless God draws people like you into the equation. I’m not saying that you’re the one who needs to “do” the work, but you are the “gateway” to the people of your church and community who will be able to do this work with proper encouragement, equipping, and coaching.

We add to our vision the words... **“Whatever it takes... Wherever it leads!”**

Those are not just added for “feel-good” effect... we mean them. We must retool our methods and models if we intend on completing our task. Michigan currently has 175 College & University campuses... over 700,000 students... over 100,000 faculty, and it’s always changing with new faces, new souls.

If we restrict ourselves by “solely” relying on our current model of Chi Alpha groups pioneered and run by our “professional, full-time, support-raising missionaries” we limit and critically handicap our team. However, if we embrace these missionaries as our resource team, equippers and mentors for a fresh wave of volunteer laborers, we can do what needs to be done!

“Every Campus... Every Student... Whatever it takes... Wherever it leads!”

We see many new Chi Alpha communities, which are on-campus, student-focused, Spirit-filled, Jesus-centered, missional communities, being pioneered throughout the state, in diverse campus settings, with a diversity of models, and a growing focus of partnering with the local church to reach their local college campus with their local volunteers!

We see all of our Chi Alpha missionaries serving with a team mindset, offering relational support for our growing network of laborers that we are committed to training, equipping and coaching for effective and fruitful campus missions.

“Changed Mindset... Changed Model... Changed Michigan!”

Your District Chi Alpha Director: Garry Miller theXAguy@gmail.com 231-463-3020

“First Steps in Starting a Chi Alpha”

(For Church/Volunteer Leaders)

Please understand this is an *introductory guide* to give you some background and perspective of seeing this idea into a reality. There are many resources, training opportunities, and Q&A times yet ahead, but our purpose here is to give you the initial guidance.

Where do we start?

It’s our hope to “partner with you,” come along side of you, to bring “our gifts” to “your table.”

We have **4 main resources** dedicated to “coming along side of you to help” bring this vision to life on your area campus. Relationships are key within our Chi Alpha network.

1. **The Michigan District Chi Alpha (XA) Director (DXAD) – Garry Miller (MIXA)**
Full-time AGUSM Chi Alpha Missionary dedicated to overseeing the Chi Alpha ministries of Michigan and establishing NEW ministries throughout the state, providing envisioning, recruiting, training, strategic planning, mentoring & coaching to our teams. (Website: www.michiganxa.org)
2. **The Michigan XA Missionary Personnel** – we have a multi-talented, multi-gifted team of full-time missionaries serving across the state that are team players, ready to encourage, resource, coach and assist in many ways. In addition, there are 5 **Regional XA Directors**, who are full-time missionaries on campus that assist new starts in their region.
3. **The Great Lakes Area XA Leadership** – the Great Lakes Area is very fortunate to have a well-established, visionary, hard-working team of XA missionaries who serve in Full-time Leadership roles, providing exceptional leadership to envision, enhance & equip our XA workers here in Michigan. They are here for you. Jeff Alexander (IN DXAD) also serves us as our Great Lakes Area Representative for Chi Alpha. (website: www.greatlakesxa.com)
4. **The National Chi Alpha Ministry Resource Center & Team**
Our growing team in Springfield, MO with XA is an amazing resource providing dynamic, experienced leadership, strategically networking all of our missionaries into a powerful force. E. Scott Martin is our National Director.
(website: www.chialpha.com)

I share those with you upfront, but please know...

Your journey begins with contacting your Michigan XA Director

*Garry & Jeanann Miller
2851 Bowers Harbor Rd
Traverse City, MI 49686*

theXAguy@gmail.com

813.817.8743

4 Basic Steps

- STEP 1 Explore local interest through contact with local pastors
- Local pastors are contacted to discuss interest
- STEP 2 Informational/Team Building Meeting
- Gathering of Local Pastors
 - Hosted by local church
 - Michigan XA will facilitate the meeting
- STEP 3 Emergence of a Chi Alpha (XA) Team Leader
- Local Lay Leader/Volunteer, Pastor/staff pastor emerge as the “Team Leader” (a starter, with an ability to gather others and envision them) with agreement from those invested.
 - “Team Leader” is assigned a coach by Michigan XA (their REGIONAL DIRECTOR or DXAD)
- STEP 4 Preparing & Supporting the New XA Leader
- Initial orientation meeting is established for the new leader & volunteers.
 - The new leader will meet with their Coach monthly, if possible in person, by visiting the coaches XA Group or Staff meeting, or having an On-Campus visit by their Coach, or having a ZOOM Video Conference Call.
 - Leader affiliates with XA Nationally. (www.chialpha.com)
 - Assistance is given in raising up a “Volunteer Team”
 - New leader is included in the Regional, State, Area & National Training & Support meetings, retreats or conferences.
 - Visits to other XA campus ministries are scheduled to provide needed exposure and shadowing of missionaries.

This is all done PRIOR to anything being launched PUBLICLY on campus.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What do you require for this partnership & starting a Chi Alpha ministry?

These are 4 essential things to seeing new Chi Alpha groups succeed.

- A. The ministry needs to have a “Starter” a “**Team Leader.**”
- Able to give a minimum of 10-20 hours/week on campus.
 - They will Affiliate as a Leader with Chi Alpha.
 - And they will demonstrate a “team” commitment, fulfilling expectations of an affiliated leader, both nationally and to Michigan.
- B. The ministry must become a **Registered Student Organization** on campus (if permitted), and **Affiliate as a group** with National Chi Alpha.
- Both are a process and something we will walk you through.
- C. The ministry must be “**ON-CAMPUS.**”
- Each XA ministry must focus and move toward an **on-campus presence and community expression.** This is not a College and Career aged group that simply meets at a church building. Young adults from such a group may indeed become key workers and get involved, but the “mission” is where the students gather daily... on the local campus, and this must be embraced at the heart.

- D. The ministry makes a **TEAM Commitment**.
- We're not "Lone Rangers," the group becomes **an active part of the Michigan XA family** and the leaders are a part of our Michigan training & planning, as well as GLXA and Nat'l XA. We have a support system that goes deep and wide! (Training days; Coaching; Relationships)
 - **Build a Team:** The Team Leader will gather a team to equip for reaching students. They must be able to attract, envision & equip others.
 - **Give to XA:** And the group commits to include Michigan & National Chi Alpha in their monthly giving. A tithe (10%) of a XA group's general offerings are given to support these (half to Michigan XA, half to National XA). It's a gesture of their belonging and value of team. (Affiliated workers & Volunteer workers commit to giving in a way appropriate to their involvement. See "MIXA Giving Policy.")

2) What do we need to look for in a Leader to head this up?

Well, this is a crucial appointment... finding the right person, "**The Team Leader**" to take the lead... it's not to be done in haste. They might be a student, someone in your church's College ministry, a campus Alumnus, an Intern, a layperson in your church passionate to reach students, a retired pastor or missionary, or even a church staff member who is able to commit a portion of their focus to the XA mission. They aren't going to do all the work, they are the "responsible facilitator" who will share vision and recruit volunteers for a team. Ideally, the team equips students to do the work.

(If there are other local churches in your area that want to work with you on this, we will start by you hosting an Informational meeting in which I would come and share the vision along with you. But, if not, we focus on your church connections.)

They should be someone with a **passionate spiritual life**, and **F.A.T!**
(*That is, Faithful, Available & Teachable*).

Faithful to **Jesus**, the **local church**, and to sticking to **the Chi Alpha Mission**. Willing to be on the XA team.

They need to be **available** to our Chi Alpha personnel from time to time for **Training & Coaching**, which we will provide.

As well, **available** to the campus! That means the students, and the unsaved or "outsiders." (As we said, 10 hrs./week. That's a bare minimum. Closer to 20hrs./week is preferred. More time availability will create more connections and consistent growth.) That means time physically on campus when students are there... connecting, discipling, doing business. And additionally, there will be time invested in prayer and preparation.

They also need to be **teachable**. That means willingly under your pastoral leadership, and willing to be coached by Chi Alpha personnel once a month on campus, and weekly on the phone. Attitude is important. Zeal balanced with healthy humility. A "servant's heart" demonstrating "servant-leadership."

3) After we find a "Team Leader" and a team begins to form, how do we build it... what will it look like?

How we shape any given Chi Alpha group depends on many factors. Structures and methods must be kept relevant, fresh, and functional. When it seems we begin serving our structures more than they serve our mission & vision, it's time to make changes. So the "ways" we create these "**Spirit-Filled, Missional Christian Communities on Campus**" will be diverse, adaptable, and campus-specific.

However, at the heart of each group you'll find our DNA, as we build these "communities" on the same 5-fold philosophy of ministry, which is a community of faith on campus that together engages in Worship, Fellowship, Prayer, Discipleship & Mission.

There is no "Chi Alpha in a Box," as every campus has it's own combination of ingredients creating a somewhat unique recipe. However, we must be ENGAGING our community and INTENTIONALLY making Disciples that will carry on the mission. We find that a "simple system" of Discipleship Small Groups "**Core Groups**" needs to be the first step, and every step thereafter! Whether there's 5 or 500 the same system serves us well if it's focused on discipleship that empowers students to do the mission.

We must help every campus team, especially those teams consisting entirely of volunteers, to become "learners" of their campus, their students, their faculty, administration and staff, and their current culture, to best determine what "ways" or methods are the right tools for the present situation.

We will do this with each team in a specific "bootcamp" training time (usually on a Saturday or weekend) and ongoing training a development via ZOOM calls or training sessions, teaching them the skills they need for ongoing assessment & change.

4) What's the basic process in moving ahead?

Well, we definitely start with Prayer, continue with Prayer, and never stop with Prayer! We need to be listening to the Holy Spirit always for guidance and instruction.

But, basically:

- Once you feel you have found the "Team Leader" we need to set up a meeting between them, you and me (the DXAD - District XA Director – Garry Miller), or the Regional Director for your area.
- Make the expectations clear and be in agreement.
- Begin exposing the leader to our Chi Alpha mission team, and begin training both on-site and at our current XA campuses in Michigan. Arranging for them to see and experience the current XA ministries, and spending time with our missionaries relationally is very important.
- Include them in any Michigan, Great Lakes Area, or National XA training events as this will be extremely important in getting them prepared. These opportunities come year round, but especially over the summer months. (SICM, RUI)
- The Leader gets on campus and begins praying on campus. Inviting others to join them. Not just students, but their friends, others from church or community. Prayer-Walks around campus are great. They help spread the vision far beyond what words can do! Take a bag with your Bible, Pen & Journal. Look, Listen, Ask, Pray & Write about what you are seeing, hearing and feeling.
- Both Pastor and the Team Leader begin sharing the vision to your church and local connections, as you seek volunteer team members to recruit. Build your team of volunteers. We will provide guidance in this process.
- If possible, invite me (Michigan DXAD) to come and speak to your congregation to share the vision, and hold a gathering for those who have interest in learning more. This can be a huge catalyst in forming a team.
- Host a weekend "Bootcamp for Starting a XA Group" which includes pre-work that is focused on learning about the specific makeup of your campus and student body. This is best done with the entire team that is forming.
- Get Affiliated through XA (our National XA Ministry). This is a must.
- Begin gathering Christian students from your church and/or campus to establish a small group that can meet to begin the process of building an "On-campus, Christian, Missional

Community.” The volunteer team is already doing this among themselves and now has a great group to invite other interested students they are building relationship with to join them. WE MUST MODEL what we want to REPRODUCE!

- Strategically multiply these CORE GROUPS and create several meeting opportunities.
- Register as a Student Organization with your University (now that you have students).
- And lastly, go PUBLIC with main weekly gatherings on campus. THINK OF IT THIS WAY... we are a ministry of small groups that also meets together! The larger our small group network grows, the more we see happen corporately, and the more people we are engaging on a daily basis, building meaningful friendships, and doing life with. That’s the ingredients of a life-giving community!

5) How much is this going to cost financially? What should we expect to budget?

Well, unless you’re adding a new pastoral staff member for this role, the costs are not as much as you might think. We do our best to be creative. Of course, someone could make this all happen without help, but why put that burden on a faithful servant of God.

We recommend that as a mothering/sponsoring church (or group of churches) you budget about \$300-500 per month for a period of 2 years. This will assist your workers to attend training and XA events, as well as build funds for outreach. You will likely want to subsidize this budget for the group during the first 2 years, with the idea that the group eventually becomes self-funding. Of course, you may choose to continue covering certain aspects of the budget, especially the several training events each year we have for Leaders. Becoming a Registered Student Organization usually opens the door for some Student Government funds for the group from the college. Additionally, students are encouraged to give regularly to the XA Ministry they are attending. We need to nurture “ownership,” and giving helps in that process. We will help you with sample budgets and discuss ideas. Of course, budgets grow as the group grows. In time, your “volunteer” leader may want to do this in a greater capacity and become a nationally-appointed Missionary Associate or Missionary. It definitely happens! If so, we hope you would do everything possible to help them in their support-raising efforts, especially with the people that they have relationship with... your church fellowship. Who knows where God will take this!

In addition to the XA “**group giving**” of 10% of general offerings, (half to Michigan XA, half to National XA) as a way of valuing and investing in the XA laborers assisting you in this venture, we ask for “**personal giving**.” All of our mission team gives a portion of their personal tithes to MIXA. Full-time Affiliated missionaries give 15% of their tithe to MIXA. Other Affiliates, not credentialed are asked to give the same or \$25 per month minimum to Michigan XA, and each Affiliated Volunteer Worker on the team to participate as well by giving \$15 per month minimum (These can be provided by a local church). This is not a Faith Promise to the Missionary or DXAD, but helps fund our Michigan District XA Expenses as we continue to establish ministry across MI.

Supporting your DXAD (Garry Miller – AGUSM Missionary) is also a very important and strategic need. The DXAD is a Full-time Nationally Appointed Missionary with AGUSM and must keep their income at 100% of budget or above, or their ministry is in jeopardy like any other missionary. PLEASE, if you are not already supporting the DXAD monthly, make every effort to begin as soon as possible.

Useful Links & Resources

www.chialpha.com - The National Chi Alpha Website

Includes a full directory of all affiliated groups & personnel, training materials, gear for sale, and much more. Go here to learn more, order free resources, and it's the place we go to Charter your Group when you are ready.

On this site, Go to "Store" on Menu/ then "Publications & Resources"

We recommend all of the resources, but especially, if you have not already received them, several copies of these 3:

- "Building Community on Campus"
- Chi Alpha Leadership and The Local Church"
- Connecting: A Practical Help for Launching College Ministry
(This can also be downloaded as a .pdf file by clicking "Resources" on the main menu, then "Students" and "Start a New Group")

www.michiganxa.org - The Michigan Chi Alpha Resource Website

This includes:

- "How to Find a Group" - Links to All of our Current Affiliated XA Groups in Michigan
- "How to Start a XA Group" and "How to Grow a XA Group" - Loads of Resources... yes, loads! This takes time, but with everyone helping, it will be awesome!
- Events that are being offered to our XA Family
- Other helpful links for people doing what we do
- And whatever else can be a help! (Open to suggestions & input)

www.greatlakesxa.com - Our Great Lakes XA Website.

The connection point for IL, IN, MI, OH, WI Chi Alpha groups and personnel.

✳️ This is our **PRIMARY CHI ALPHA RESOURCE LOCATION** at present. Get familiar with it. Again, www.greatlakesxa.com

Google Drive Folder: You will also be added to our GOOGLE DRIVE Folder, "CampusResourcesXA" which is a collection of training, resources, and information pertaining to MIXA workers. If you do not have access yet, please inform Garry.

SLACK app: Additionally, we want every worker using the SLACK App which is our primary communication tool. Our group is: michiganxastaff.slack.com
You will need to set up a free account and join our group.