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# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

 Gateway Church

- In response to God's leading in my life, I would like to request membership in Gateway Church, a church of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.
  - I have experienced the new birth in Christ. I am trusting in God's grace alone through faith in Christ alone for the forgiveness of my sins and my assurance of eternal life.
  - I understand that Gateway Church membership is a solemn covenant where I agree to engage in a lifestyle of spiritual growth and accountability with my brothers and sisters in Christ.
  - I have read and agree with Gateway's Statement of Faith, Local Church Constitution and the Discipline and Restoration Policy.
  - I have attended the Intro to Gateway seminar.
  - I agree to attend worship regularly at Gateway and to use my spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ.
  - I commit to financially support the local and global ministries of Gateway.
  - I make a solemn promise before God that I will not gossip about others in my Gateway church family.
  - I have made a public confession of my faith in Christ by baptism as a believer.<sup>1</sup>
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- In applying to become a member of Gateway Church, I gladly renounce all known sin in my life, and solemnly affirm that I am trusting in Jesus to help me to resist temptation and experience freedom from the power of sin that He died to give to me. I hereby give my informed consent for the Gateway Board to lovingly confront me if my behavior is in unrepentant violation of Scriptural moral standards.
  
- I have read and will abide by Gateway's Statement on Human Sexuality. I understand that members who are, without repentance, engaging in sexual behaviour and relationships contrary to the Statement on Human Sexuality (this includes, but is not limited to pre-marital relationships, extra-marital relationships, same-sex relationships, and polyamorous relationships) or persons who are not able to abide by Gateway's Statement on Human Sexuality shall not be issued nor continue in membership at Gateway Church.
  
- If I should come to the point where I no longer meet these qualifications for membership at Gateway Church, I will voluntarily remove myself from membership by informing the Board.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> Gateway teaches and models the importance of Christ's disciples being baptised as Christ commanded in the Great Commission (see Matthew 28:19,20). At the same time, Gateway does not see believers' baptism as an issue that is essential for salvation (Ephesians 2:9,10 mentions that salvation is by grace alone through faith in Christ alone). Therefore, the Board of Gateway may decide, on a case by case basis, to extend membership to individuals who 1. were baptized as an infant but not as a believer, and 2. who have studied the issue biblically and have respectfully arrived at a different conclusion about the issue of infant or believers' baptism, and 3. who present a credible and public testimony of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and, 4. who meet all other qualifications for membership at Gateway.

## Statement of Faith

(Also contained in the Local Church Constitution and the Constitution for Developing Churches)

### **THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE IN CANADA – L'ALLIANCE CHRETIENNE ET MISSIONNAIRE AU CANADA**

1. There is one God<sup>1</sup>, who is infinitely perfect<sup>2</sup>, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit<sup>3</sup>.
2. Jesus Christ is true God and true man<sup>4</sup>. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary<sup>5</sup>. He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in him are justified on the ground of his shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures<sup>6</sup>. He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest<sup>7</sup>. He will come again to establish his Kingdom of righteousness and peace<sup>8</sup>.
3. The Holy Spirit is a divine Person, sent to indwell<sup>9</sup>, guide, teach and empower the believer, and to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment<sup>10</sup>.
4. The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of his will for the salvation of people. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice<sup>11</sup>.
5. Humankind, originally created in the image and likeness of God<sup>12</sup>, fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All people are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ<sup>13</sup>. The destiny of the impenitent and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment, but that of the believer is everlasting joy and bliss<sup>14</sup>.
6. Salvation has been provided only through Jesus Christ. Those who repent and believe in him are united with Christ through the Holy Spirit and are thereby regenerated (born again), justified, sanctified and granted the gift of eternal life as adopted children of God<sup>15</sup>.
7. It is the will of God that in union with Christ each believer should be sanctified thoroughly<sup>16</sup> thereby being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to God, receiving power for holy living and sacrificial and effective service toward the completion of Christ's commission<sup>17</sup>.

This is accomplished through being filled with the Holy Spirit which is both a distinct event and progressive experience in the life of the believer<sup>18</sup>.

8. Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body. Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil as taught in the Scriptures are privileges for the Church in this present age<sup>19</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 44:6; 45:5-6

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 5:48; Deut. 32:4

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19

<sup>4</sup> Philippians 2:6-11; Hebrews 2:14-18;  
Colossians 2:9

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:35

<sup>6</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:3-5; 1 John 2:2;  
Acts 13:39

<sup>7</sup> Hebrews 4:14-15; 9:24-28

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 25:31-34; Acts 1:11

<sup>9</sup> John 14:16-17

<sup>10</sup> John 16:7-11; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12

<sup>11</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21

<sup>12</sup> Genesis 1:27

<sup>13</sup> Romans 8:8; 1 John 2:2

<sup>14</sup> Matthew 25:41-46;

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

<sup>15</sup> Titus 3:5-7; Acts 2:38; John 1:12;

1 Corinthians 6:11

<sup>16</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:23

<sup>17</sup> Acts 1:8

<sup>18</sup> Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-25

<sup>19</sup> Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:13-16

9. The universal Church, of which Christ is the Head, consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and commissioned by Christ to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the Gospel to all nations<sup>20</sup>.

The local church, the visible expression of the universal Church, is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together to worship God, to observe the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, to pray, to be edified through the Word of God, to fellowship, and to testify in word and deed to the good news of salvation both locally and globally. The local church enters into relationships with other like-minded churches for accountability, encouragement and mission<sup>21</sup>.

10. There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life<sup>22</sup>; for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment<sup>23</sup>.
11. The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent and will be personal and visible<sup>24</sup>. As the believer's blessed hope, this vital truth is an incentive for holy living and sacrificial service toward the completion of Christ's commission<sup>25</sup>.

Amendments to the Statement of Faith may be made only by special resolution at any regular business session of General Assembly, written notice having been given prior to General Assembly.

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<sup>20</sup> Ephesians 3:6-12; 1:22-23

<sup>21</sup> Acts 2:41-47; Hebrews 10:25;  
Matthew 28:19- 20;  
Acts 1:8, 11:19-30; 15

<sup>22</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

<sup>23</sup> 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

<sup>24</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

<sup>25</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:7; Titus 2:11-14;  
Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20

## **Local Church Constitution**

### **A Policy of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada**

#### **Preamble**

The Local Church Constitution has been framed and adopted by the General Assembly of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, the denomination's highest legislative body.

Because each Christian and Missionary Alliance church is an integral part of the national and worldwide fellowship, it is united in governance, fellowship, and service in order to promote unity of faith in the fullness of Jesus Christ as Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King, thereby facilitating the spread of the Gospel at home and abroad under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Each local church shall be governed by the following constitution.

This constitution has two objectives:

- 1) to state the purpose of this local church and to define the nature of the relationships of this local church to The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada and the district of which it is an integral part; and
- 2) to stipulate the enabling instruments, legal procedures, and the empowering conditions under which this local church is to carry out its local and worldwide work.

The local church is the fundamental unit of Christian fellowship as exemplified in the Scripture. Faithfulness in multiplying churches around the world that are nourished in the Bible and full of the Holy Spirit is the Scriptural pattern for carrying out the redemptive purposes of God and the Great Commission of our Lord and Saviour. The statement of our founder, A.B. Simpson, is as relevant today as when he gave it in his address to General Council in 1912:

"We need to be perfectly adjusted in our loyalty to Christ and at the same time in our responsibility to the special trust which he has committed to our hands. God does not want us to be afraid of losing our consecration by being true to The Christian and Missionary Alliance, by knowing how to keep rank and by marching loyally under our own standard.

"Further, we must have the right adjustment of our home and foreign work, and the interdependence each upon the other, the home work as the constituency of the foreign, and the foreign as the outlet and complement of the other.

"Our foreign work is not only the fulfillment of the supreme duty of the Church of Christ, but the loftiest inspiration and uplift of our whole Christian life at home.

"God grant that this work may never lose its old simplicity, self-sacrifice and separation, not only from the secular but from the religious world in its spirit and practice. But at the same time, we must keep abreast of the progress of our age and be men and women of today in our message and ministry to our generation."

#### **Article 1 – Name**

The name of this church shall be \_\_\_\_\_ of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.

The church shall receive approval of the District Executive Committee of the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada of which it is a part prior to the legal registration or use of the name.

## Article 2 – Purpose

The purpose of this church is to glorify God by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ and persuading men and women to become His disciples and dependable members of His Church.

Certain principles condition the implementation of this purpose:

- 2.1. The church fosters spiritual maturation through participation of its members in worship and nurturing activities according to their maturity, gifts, and abilities in ministering to the needs of the body in her task of evangelization at home and abroad.
- 2.2. The church observes the ordinances of believer’s baptism and the Lord’s Supper and complies with the biblical qualifications for selection of church leadership. She considers the basic methods of communicating the Gospel to be through worship, preaching, teaching, witnessing, and example. She takes discipline and restoration of the offender seriously. She holds that the fullness of the Holy Spirit is essential for holiness of life and effective witness. She affirms the necessity for fervent prayer, faithful service and sacrificial giving as modeled by Christ Himself. She regards social service and good citizenship as outgrowths of the Gospel.
- 2.3. The local church is the visible, organized expression of the Body of Christ. She conducts her affairs decently and in order. She organizes herself so that all members can contribute according to their gifts and abilities to the total working of the body. She operates on the assumption that the congregation finds broader meaning and outreach by fulfilling her biblical responsibilities within and beyond the life and witness of the denomination.
- 2.4. The church cultivates fellowship and not sectarianism. Her local and extended family seeks for common spiritual ground on which fellowship with other groups may be enriched and strengthened through an open and transparent relationship.

## Article 3 – Statement of Faith

This church subscribes to the following statement of faith which is the statement of faith of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada as amended from time to time.

1. There is one God,<sup>1</sup> who is infinitely perfect,<sup>2</sup> existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.<sup>3</sup>
2. Jesus Christ is true God and true man.<sup>4</sup> He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.<sup>5</sup> He died upon the cross, the just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures.<sup>6</sup> He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest.<sup>7</sup> He will come again to establish his Kingdom of righteousness and peace.<sup>8</sup>
3. The Holy Spirit is a divine Person, sent to indwell,<sup>9</sup> guide, teach and empower the believer, and to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.<sup>10</sup>
4. The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of his will for the salvation of people. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 44:6; 45:5-6

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 5:48; Deuteronomy 32:4

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19

<sup>4</sup> Philippians 2:6-11; Hebrews 2:14-18; Colossians 2:9

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:35

<sup>6</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:3-5; 1 John 2:2; Acts 13:39

<sup>7</sup> Hebrews 4:14-15; 9:24-28

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 25:31-34; Acts 1:11

<sup>9</sup> John 14:16-17

<sup>10</sup> John 16:7-11; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12

<sup>11</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21

5. Humankind, originally created in the image and likeness of God,<sup>12</sup> fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All people are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>13</sup> The destiny of the impenitent and unbelieving is existence forever in conscious torment, but that of the believer is everlasting joy and bliss.<sup>14</sup>
6. Salvation has been provided only through Jesus Christ. Those who repent and believe in Him are united with Christ through the Holy Spirit and are thereby regenerated (born again), justified, sanctified and granted the gift of eternal life as adopted children of God.<sup>15</sup>
7. It is the will of God that in union with Christ each believer should be sanctified thoroughly<sup>16</sup> thereby being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to God, receiving power for holy living and sacrificial and effective service toward the completion of Christ's commission.<sup>17</sup>

This is accomplished through being filled with the Holy Spirit which is both a distinct event and progressive experience in the life of the believer.<sup>18</sup>

8. Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body. Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil as taught in the Scriptures are privileges for the Church in this present age.<sup>19</sup>
9. The universal Church, of which Christ is the Head, consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and commissioned by Christ to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the Gospel to all nations.<sup>20</sup>

The local church, the visible expression of the universal Church, is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together to worship God, to observe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, to pray, to be edified through the Word of God, to fellowship, and to testify in word and deed to the Good News of salvation both locally and globally. The local church enters into relationships with other like-minded churches for accountability, encouragement and mission.<sup>21</sup>

10. There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life;<sup>22</sup> for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment.<sup>23</sup>
11. The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent and will be personal and visible.<sup>24</sup> As the believer's blessed hope, this vital truth is an incentive for holy living and sacrificial service toward the completion of Christ's commission.<sup>25</sup>

#### Article 4—Relationship

This church is a constituent member of the district and national organizations of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada as such organizations are defined in the Manual. The policies and regulations of this church shall be consistent with, and the church shall operate in accordance with, the Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada as amended from time to time.

<sup>12</sup> Genesis 1:27

<sup>13</sup> Romans 8:8; 1 John 2:2

<sup>14</sup> Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

<sup>15</sup> Titus 3:5-7; Acts 2:38; John 1:12; 1 Corinthians 6:11

<sup>16</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:23

<sup>17</sup> Acts 1:8

<sup>18</sup> Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-25

<sup>19</sup> Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:13-16

<sup>20</sup> Ephesians 3:6-12; 1:22-23

<sup>21</sup> Acts 2:41-47; Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8, 11:19-30; 15

<sup>22</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

<sup>23</sup> 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

<sup>24</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

<sup>25</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:7; Titus 2:11-14; Matthew 24:14; 28:18-20

## Article 5—Ordinances

Believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper are recognized as the two ordinances of the Church as commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism is an act of obedience for all believers. While other modes of believer's baptism are recognized, baptism by immersion is taught and practiced as the Scriptural mode. The Lord's Supper is administered regularly and offered to all believers.

## Article 6 – Membership

### 6.1. Privileges and Qualifications

There shall be a voting membership and such additional types of association as may be defined in the bylaws.

The privileges of membership include eligibility to vote, to be considered for election to serve on the Board subject to Article 8, and such further privileges as may be specified in the bylaws.

The qualifications for membership include a credible testimony of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ before members of the Board; believer's baptism; a commitment to the principles of the Preamble; a commitment to the Purpose (Article 2), and statement of faith (Article 3) of this church; submission to the discipline procedures of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada; and such further qualifications as may be specified in the bylaws.

While affirming the above as normative, the Board of Elders of the local church may discern on a case by case basis whether to extend membership to individuals who were baptized as infants and who now present a credible testimony of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ before members of the Board; a commitment to the principles of the Preamble; a commitment to the Purpose (Article 2), and statement of faith (Article 3) of this church; submission to the discipline procedures of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada; and such further qualifications as may be specified in the bylaws.

### 6.2. Discipline

Discipline is an exercise of that spiritual authority that the Lord Jesus has given to his Church. The purposes of discipline are to maintain the honour of the Redeemer, the purity of the Church, the spiritual benefit of the members, and the restoration of the offender. The discipline of a member shall be the responsibility of the Board or its designates and shall be in accordance with the Discipline and Restoration Policy for Members of Local Churches adopted by The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada. It shall be a condition of membership that persons accept and comply with the Discipline and Restoration Policy for Members of Local Churches.

## Article 7 – Government

There shall be an annual meeting of the membership to be held as specified in the bylaws. It shall receive reports from the senior pastor and the Board, receive financial statements, and shall conduct such other business as may be presented in keeping with the bylaws.

Unless another process for election is stipulated in the bylaws, at the annual meeting the members shall elect a Board from among the voting membership to be responsible for the affairs of the church between annual meetings. The Board is amenable both to the membership and to the district superintendent as constitutionally defined.

Meetings of the membership may be called by the Board by proper notice to the membership as specified in the bylaws. The senior pastor or his appointee shall act as the chair of meetings of the membership.



## Article 8 – Board

### 8.1. Composition and Responsibilities

The highest functioning authority of the local church shall be the Board of Elders which may be called by another name and is herein referred to as the “Board”. Board members shall be elected, and along with the senior pastor, will provide oversight of the ministry and operation of the local church. Criteria for membership on the Board are the biblical qualifications of elders.

The church may, by a two-thirds majority of the members present at a duly called meeting of the membership, choose to have women serve on the Board.

The Board shall have a minimum number of four members, including the senior pastor, with the maximum number to be established by the bylaws.

With the exception of the senior pastor, who is a member ex-officio, the members of the Board shall be elected at the annual meeting unless another process for election is stipulated in the bylaws.

The senior pastor or a member of the Board appointed by him shall be the chair. The senior pastor shall have primary responsibility for oversight of the Board and the church and shall function within the job description approved by the Board.

The Board shall serve with the senior pastor in the oversight of the church. It shall have authority to fill vacancies between annual meetings. It shall hold regular meetings for prayer and business and shall report as the church membership may decide. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the chair or upon written request by a majority of its members. All other officers and organizations, except the Nominating Committee, are amenable to the Board.

Persons shall not vote on any matter that may directly or indirectly result in financial benefit to them, whether such benefit be in the nature of salary or other payment.

### 8.2. Officers

The officers of the church shall include, but not be limited to, the chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer. Additional officers of the church may be designated by the bylaws of the church or laws of the province or territory in which this church is located. They shall be appointed from among the Board members, except in the case of the chair, when that post is filled by the senior pastor.

### 8.3. Duties

The officers shall carry out the following duties and such additional duties as directed from time to time by the Board:

#### 8.3.1. Chair

The chair shall preside at regular and special meetings of the Board.

#### 8.3.2. Vice chair

The vice chair acts in the absence or at the request of the chair.

#### 8.3.3. Secretary

The secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings of the Board and the membership. The secretary shall have the care of the corporate seal, if any, and ensure the safekeeping of the official records. The secretary shall conduct the official correspondence of the church as directed by the Board.

8.3.4. Treasurer

The treasurer shall ensure that all funds of the church are received and disbursed as directed by the Board, shall ensure that proper records are maintained, and shall report as required.

**8.4. Trustees**

Where required, trustees shall be selected in conformity with the laws of the province or territory. They shall be under the direction of the membership and the Board.

**Article 9 – Pastor and Official Workers**

**9.1. Senior Pastor**

The district superintendent shall suggest to the Board the names of such workers as in his judgment have proper qualifications for senior pastor of this church (who may be given another title). The Board shall give consideration only to candidates approved by the district superintendent. The senior pastor of the church shall be called by the Board and appointed by the district superintendent. Upon his appointment by the district superintendent, the senior pastor and spouse become members of the church.

Churches, which by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a duly called meeting of the membership have affirmed to have women serve on the Board, may call a woman to serve as senior pastor in consultation with the district superintendent.

The senior pastor may resign from the church by giving due notice of his intention to the district superintendent and the Board. The Board may, with the written approval of the district superintendent, terminate the employment of the senior pastor in accordance with the policies of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.

The district superintendent may, after consultation with the Board and with the approval of the District Executive Committee, terminate the appointment of the senior pastor.

**9.2. Pastors (other than senior) and Official Workers**

The senior pastor shall consider for ministry staff only those candidates who in his judgment have proper qualifications for pastors or official workers in the church and are approved by the district superintendent. All official workers shall be nominated by the senior pastor, called by the Board, and appointed by the district superintendent. Upon appointment, the official worker and spouse become members of the church.

The official worker may resign from the church by giving due notice of intention to the senior pastor and the district superintendent and through the senior pastor to the Board. The senior pastor may, with the approval of the Board, and after consultation with the district superintendent, terminate the employment of workers covered in this section in accordance with the policies of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada. The district superintendent may, after consultation with the senior pastor and Board and with the approval of the District Executive Committee, terminate the appointment of the official worker.

**Article 10 – Organizations**

The Board may establish organizations, committees, and teams strategic to fulfilling the purpose of this church. They shall be under the authority of the Board and shall fulfill the duties determined by the Board.

## Article 11 – Missions

The biblical basis of missions and the current efforts to transform the world for Christ shall be emphasized and promoted throughout the year in conjunction with the district and national programs of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada. The church shall enlist prayer support, recruit workers, and raise financial support for the global work of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

## Article 12 – Property and Records

### 12.1. Property

This church will be operated without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other assets of the organization will be used solely to promote its objectives.

Real property may be acquired, disposed of, improved or encumbered by order of the Board, subject to the approval of the membership and the District Executive Committee. Except as otherwise provided herein, all real property shall be registered in the name of the district in which the property is situated and the district shall be deemed to be the legal and beneficial owner of all real property, appurtenances and effects. The district shall be entitled and authorized to mortgage, hypothecate, pledge, or otherwise create a security interest in, or charge on, all or any part of such property to secure payment of debt or performance of any other obligation of either the church or the district.

The above requirements may be waived by an incorporated church by a two-thirds majority of the members present at a duly called meeting of the membership and with the approval of the District Executive Committee. In such cases, the church shall have a clause in its bylaws which states that, should the church cease to exist as a corporate body, or cease to be subject to the Manual, which includes the statement of faith of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, all of its real property, appurtenances, and effects then owned or held by it shall inure to the benefit of, and become the property of, the district corporation of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, within which jurisdiction this church is located or with which it is affiliated by law. Further, the church will assume full responsibility for all encumbrances with respect to the subject property and will obtain a full release for the district of any security interest provided by the district for the benefit of the local church.

Should the church cease to exist or cease to be subject to the Manual, which includes the statement of faith of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, all of its real property, appurtenances, and effects associated with the member church prior to its withdrawal shall inure to the benefit of and remain the property of the district corporation of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada within which this church is located or with which it is affiliated by law.

Should the church cease to be subject to the Manual, which includes the statement of faith of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, but continue to abide by a similar statement of faith and promote similar purposes, the District Executive Committee of the district within which this church is located or with which it is affiliated by law may allow the church to acquire ownership of some or all of the real property, appurtenances, and effects associated with the member church prior to its withdrawal.

### 12.2. Records

The official records of all officers of this church and all its departments are the property of the church. All financial records shall be prepared and maintained according to Accounting Standards for Not-For-Profit Organizations, and shall be subject to an audit, review, or other independent evaluation annually as prescribed by the bylaws.

In the event of the death or resignation of an incumbent officer or upon the election or appointment of a successor, the current records of the office shall be returned to the secretary of the Board. All records, other than the current ones, shall be kept in a secure repository designated by the Board.

### **Article 13 – Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee, when required, shall consist of the senior pastor and a minimum of four members with equal representation from the Board and the membership, the number to be established in the bylaws. The senior pastor, or his appointee, shall chair this committee. They shall be elected by ballot by the respective bodies at least three months prior to the annual meeting and shall serve until the annual meeting. In cases where only the required number is nominated, the ballot may be waived by unanimous vote.

### **Article 14 – Elections**

In preparation for elections at the annual meeting, the Nominating Committee shall present and post, at least three weekends prior to the annual meeting, one name for each office to be filled. Any procedures for receiving additional nominations from the membership shall be specified in the bylaws. Elections shall be by ballot and, in order to be elected to the Board, a nominee must receive a majority of the ballots cast.

### **Article 15 – Bylaws**

Church bylaws may not be in conflict with this Constitution. Bylaws and subsequent revisions become valid upon adoption by a majority of the votes cast at a duly called meeting of members and approval of the District Executive Committee. A copy of the bylaws must be filed with the district.

### **Article 16 – Amendments**

This constitution may be amended only by special resolution at any regular business session of General Assembly of, written notice having been given prior to the General Assembly.

Adopted – General Assembly 2004  
Amended – General Assembly 2010  
Amended – General Assembly 2014  
Amended - General Assembly 2016  
Amended – General Assembly 2018

## **Discipline and Restoration Policy**

### **For Members of Local Churches Of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada**

#### **Preamble**

**WHEREAS** The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada has stated its recognition and intent with respect to the discipline of members of local churches within the denomination (see Local Church Constitution Article 6, Item 6.2);

**AND WHEREAS** the following scriptural references have been reviewed and relied upon as the biblical basis for the regulations which follow: (Matthew 18:15-20; I Corinthians 5:9-13, 6:1-11; I Timothy 5:19-21; II Thessalonians 3:14-15);

**AND WHEREAS** The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada desires to establish clear, fair and scriptural regulations for the implementation of church discipline;

The following Uniform Regulations shall be used by all local churches in The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.

#### **1. Uniform Regulations**

- 1.1. It shall be a condition of membership in a local church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada that each member accept and comply with the authority of the local church to discipline members in accordance with these Uniform Regulations.
- 1.2. If a member(s) of a local church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada is alleged to be in violation of scriptural moral standards, doctrinal truth or proper Christian behaviour, he or she may be subject to the following inquiry and discipline procedure.

The term “violation of scriptural moral standards” as used by The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada shall include, but not be limited to, sexual activity outside of a monogamous heterosexual marriage, sexual harassment or assault, homosexuality, misappropriation of funds, dishonesty or fraud in business and legal transactions, and guilt in a criminal offense.

#### **2. General Directives for Investigation and Discipline**

- 2.1. Ecclesiastical law permits proceedings on the presumption of innocence, but it does not endorse hasty action on the basis of rumour. It is therefore necessary that one or more responsible persons substantiate charges by signing their names to a written statement or by giving personal testimony with full consent that they may be identified before proceeding with an investigation.
- 2.2. Since negative criticism is very serious, it is essential that the testimony of accusers or witnesses be confirmed by reliable evidence to ascertain the possibility of malice or revenge. Witnesses should be reminded that, while they are not under oath, and therefore not subject to charges of perjury, they are not immune from civil suit for defamation of character if their testimony is proven to be malicious or grossly imaginative.
- 2.3. The offenses for which a person may be given a hearing include violation of a scriptural moral standard, promulgation of doctrines that are contrary to the basic tenets of the Christian faith as set forth in the Statement of Faith of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, and any violation of the law of which he/she has been found guilty.

- 2.4. All investigations shall be conducted with Christian sincerity. Rumours must be verified by reliable evidence to determine what substance may be behind them. False accusation is contrary to the Ten Commandments. Damage to one's reputation is very difficult to repair. Proper restitution can be made only in part to one who has lost the confidence of good people through unfounded charges of wrong conduct.
- 2.5. The integrity of the church demands, however, that personal feelings shall not prevent thorough investigation of alleged wrongdoing. Where there is sound and reliable evidence of guilt, justice requires the pursuit of unbiased inquiry. Where there is proof of violation of a scriptural moral standard, there is required also the application of suitable discipline.
- 2.6. Since ecclesiastical law permits the respondent to testify on behalf of himself/herself, such evidence shall not be released to use in any civil proceeding in which the accused may become involved. It is essential that all records, whether of investigation or of discipline, be guarded carefully lest they become the basis of gossip or unauthorized use. All records shall be filed with the pastor. The pastor shall report all disciplinary matters to the district superintendent.
- 2.7. The use of tape recordings or any other type of magnetic recordings shall be permitted only if such recordings are made with the full knowledge of those whose testimony or charges are given. No secret recordings shall be admissible as evidence. The names of all whose voices are recorded shall be given clearly at the beginning of their testimony. Recordings may be made of any sessions of investigation or discipline.
- 2.7.1. **Step 1:** A member(s) of the Board or a member(s) of the local church pastoral staff shall meet with the member in question who is alleged to be in violation of scriptural moral standards, doctrinal truth or proper Christian behaviour, and they shall attempt to resolve the matter to the satisfaction of the Board and the member in question.
- 2.7.2. **Step 2:** If the matter is not resolved by Step 1, then the senior pastor, or his designated representative, and a subcommittee of the Board of the local church shall meet with the member(s) in question and attempt to resolve the matter to the satisfaction of the Board and the member(s) in question.
- 2.7.3. **Step 3:** If the matter is not resolved by Step 2, then a special meeting of the members of the Board may be called by the chair, or his designated representative, to deal exclusively with the matter of the allegations against the member in question. The member(s) in question shall be notified and invited to the special meeting. The chair, or his designated representative of the Board of the local church shall act as the chair of this meeting. In the special meeting, the allegations against the member in question shall be summarized and the questions and discussion shall be allowed by those present during the meeting. After giving consideration to the issue, the Board shall determine specific terms and conditions of any discipline that it deems appropriate. The action of the Board and the results of the vote shall be final and binding on the Board, the local church and the member(s) in question, subject to the rights of appeal pursuant to the Uniform Regulations.

When disciplinary action has been taken against a member(s), the Board may choose whether or not to inform the membership of the local church and the manner in which the report shall be stated.

- 2.8. **A RIGHT OF APPEAL** is given to the member(s) in question from the action of the Board taken at the special meeting described in paragraph 7.3 above. Notice of appeal must be given to the district superintendent's office within 30 days after the vote of the Board at the special meeting. An appeal hearing shall be commenced within 30 days after the request for the appeal hearing. The appeal shall be heard by the District Executive Committee or a subcommittee thereof. The district superintendent, or his designated

representative, shall be the chair of the hearing. The district superintendent shall determine the time, place, procedure and conduct of the hearing. A full right of hearing shall be given to both the Board and the member(s) involved. The district superintendent shall allow either side to have an agent or representative to present their case for them at the appeal hearing. The District Executive Committee shall make a final determination of all questions and issues relating to the discipline of the member(s) in question within seven days after the completion of the appeal hearing. The decision of the District Executive Committee shall be final and binding on the local church, the Board, the member(s) in question, the district corporation and The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.

- 2.9. **THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** has exclusive authority and jurisdiction to exercise the powers conferred on it pursuant to paragraph 8 above of these Uniform Regulations. The District Executive Committee has exclusive authority and jurisdiction to determine all questions of fact, scriptural moral standards, doctrinal truth and proper Christian behaviour for the purposes of these Uniform Regulations. The District Executive Committee decision is final and binding on all parties. No decision or ruling of the District Executive Committee shall be appealed, judicially reviewed, reconsidered or overturned by any court or tribunal whatsoever.
- 2.10. **PROVINCIAL STATUTES AND LAWS** that govern the procedures of administrative tribunals and courts in the jurisdiction shall not apply and shall not bind any party affected by these Uniform Regulations and, in particular, the District Executive Committee in the carrying out of its duties pursuant to these Uniform Regulations.
- 2.11. **THE UNIFORM REGULATIONS** shall be followed and implemented in accordance with the highest level of integrity and scriptural moral standards; and shall be consistent with the purposes of church discipline as stated in the Local Church Constitution of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.

### 3. Amendments

This policy may be amended by a majority vote of General Assembly, written notice having been given prior to General Assembly.

Amended - General Assembly 1996

Amended - General Assembly 2004

## **Statement on Human Sexuality**

### **An Official Statement of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada**

#### **Summary**

God-honouring, life-enhancing sexuality finds its expression in the goodness of either celibate singleness or the life-long covenant of marriage between one man and one woman. Sexuality, the distinctiveness of our experience as male and female rather than as undifferentiated humans, is a feature of God's creation of humanity. Sexual intimacy is intended for marriage and sexual intimacy outside of this protective bond is therefore contrary to God's good design for humanity.

#### **1. The Good Design in Creation**

In the beginning, God created humans as relational beings<sup>1</sup>, the inherent design of male and female reflecting God's image.<sup>2</sup> Sexuality, our maleness and femaleness, is a dimension of our embodied existence. Sexual difference and complementarity are thus good features of our identity.<sup>3</sup> While identity, fulfillment, and the path to human flourishing are founded on a relationship with the Creator, God made sex as an expression of intimacy, love, and self-giving, to be experienced between one man and one woman in a lifelong covenant.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, God-honouring sexuality finds expression in the goodness of either celibate singleness or faithful heterosexual marriage.<sup>5</sup>

#### **2. Sin and its Effect on Sexuality**

Sexuality has been profoundly distorted by humanity's fall into sin resulting in broken relationships with God and each other.<sup>6</sup> Consequently, both sexual identity and sexual desire have been affected, resulting in confusion and the temptation to sin.<sup>7</sup> To be tempted is not in itself sinful; sexual sin is the choice to act on temptation in thought, speech, or behaviour that falls outside of God's good boundaries.<sup>8</sup>

Furthermore, sexual sin results in significant harm to everyone involved<sup>9</sup>. This harm takes many forms, whether objectification,<sup>10</sup> abuse, or exploitation and is contrary to the inherent dignity of all people as God's image bearers.<sup>11</sup> All are affected by this, though women and children tend to experience victimization most frequently.

#### **3. The Reaffirmation of God's Design**

To restore our broken world, God became human and lived among us.<sup>12</sup> Jesus perfectly embodied<sup>13</sup> God's original design for human sexuality, affirmed the dignity of all people,<sup>14</sup> spoke against those who would exploit others,<sup>15</sup> and reaffirmed God's plan for sexual expression within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman.<sup>16</sup> As a celibate single, Jesus also modelled a fulfilled life, complete and pure in his union with the Father and the Spirit, but also rich in friendship with both women and men.<sup>17</sup> This example reminds us that our primary identity is found in intimate relationship with God and that sex is not necessary for human wholeness.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Genesis 2:18

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 1:26-27

<sup>3</sup> Genesis 5:1,2

<sup>4</sup> Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:31

<sup>5</sup> Hebrews 13:4

<sup>6</sup> Genesis 3:16

<sup>7</sup> Romans 1:24

<sup>8</sup> 1 Corinthians 10:13

<sup>9</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 5:28

<sup>11</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:13

<sup>12</sup> John 1:14

<sup>13</sup> Hebrews 4:15

<sup>14</sup> Luke 7:36-50

<sup>15</sup> Mark 12:38-40; Luke 4:18-21

<sup>16</sup> Matthew 19:1-12

<sup>17</sup> Luke 10:38-42

<sup>18</sup> 1 Corinthians 7:7,8



#### 4. The Empowerment for Restored Human Sexuality

After his ascension, Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to indwell and empower his followers to experience ever-increasing holiness, including sexual wholeness.<sup>19</sup> United by the Holy Spirit, the Church, as the new family of God<sup>20</sup>, is called to demonstrate God's grace by inviting everyone into loving community through the practice of hospitality.<sup>21</sup> The Church therefore affirms the dignity of all people and strives to treat everyone with respect.<sup>22</sup> The Church is called to be a safe place of grace for all people, including those of us who are facing sexual temptations and failures, providing accountability and support in the midst of struggle.<sup>23</sup>

Furthermore, the Church aspires to help people to experience the truth that healthy relationships with God and each other are more valuable than sexual gratification.<sup>24</sup> In this current age, as in any other age, some followers of Jesus will be called to lives of celibate singleness for the sake of the Kingdom of God.<sup>25</sup> In the age to come, humanity's hope of intimacy will be in loving union with God and each other,<sup>26</sup> a consummation that transcends our imagination.<sup>27</sup>

Given the inherent dignity of all persons, and the call of followers of Christ to love our neighbours, we will not tolerate any language of hate or loathing toward those who hold to a differing view on human sexuality. C&MA churches, pastors, workers and members will treat all persons regardless of gender, belief or sexuality with respect and compassion.

#### 5. Amendments

This Statement may be amended by a majority vote of General Assembly, written notice having been given prior to General Assembly.

Adopted – General Assembly 2018

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<sup>19</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

<sup>20</sup> Mark 3:34-35

<sup>21</sup> 1 Peter 4:8-10

<sup>22</sup> Romans 12:9-18

<sup>23</sup> Galatians 6:1,2

<sup>24</sup> Matthew 19:27-30

<sup>25</sup> Matthew 19:10-12; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

<sup>26</sup> Matthew 22:30

<sup>27</sup> Revelation 22:1-5