



**Uniform Constitution for Accredited Churches  
of  
The Christian and Missionary Alliance  
and  
Bylaws of the Cecil Alliance Church**



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## How to Use This Document

To provide ease of use when referencing the Constitution and Bylaws, this document combines the **Uniform Constitution for Accredited Churches of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (in bold type)** with the Bylaws of Cecil Alliance Church (in regular type).

Each bold section of the Constitution is followed by those Bylaws of Cecil Alliance Church pertaining to that specific section of the Constitution.

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# **Cecil Alliance Church Constitution and Bylaws**

**"Constitution" refers to the "Uniform Constitution for Accredited Churches of the Christian and Missionary Alliance" (Last Revision General Council 2014), and appear in bold type.**

**"Bylaws" refer to the "Bylaws to the Constitution" adopted by the membership of Cecil Alliance Church, and appear in regular type.**

**Each accredited church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance shall adopt and be governed by the following Constitution.**

## **PREAMBLE**

**The New Testament teaches that the local church is the visible organized expression of the Body of Christ. The people of God are to live and serve in obedience to the Word of God and under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.**

**The Christian and Missionary Alliance operates on the presupposition that the congregation finds broader meaning and outreach in fulfilling its biblical responsibilities within the life and witness of the denomination.**

**This Constitution has three objectives:**

- 1. Set out in general an outline for organization and administration for this church.**
- 2. Define the relationship of this church to the district of which it is an integral part.**
- 3. Relate this church to the denominational framework through which the worldwide work of The Christian and Missionary Alliance is carried out.**

**The Uniform Constitution for Accredited Churches has been framed and adopted by the General Council, the denomination's highest governing body. The accredited churches of The Christian and Missionary Alliance have participated in this process through their authorized delegates. This church can, in accordance with this Constitution and in a manner that is consistent with the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, formulate its bylaws so as to carry out its ministry appropriately and efficiently.**

**This church is an integral part of the district, national, and worldwide fellowship of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and is united in governance, fellowship, and service in order to promote unity of faith in the fullness of Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King, and to facilitate the spread of the gospel at home and abroad under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

**The official name under which this church is incorporated or organized is The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church of Cecil, (shall include the words “The Christian and Missionary Alliance”).**

### Bylaws to Article I: Name

For advertising and general purposes, this church shall be known as  
Cecil Alliance Church

## ARTICLE II: RELATIONSHIP

**This church is connected with and subordinate to its parent religious organization, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, a Colorado nonprofit corporation. In consideration of the mutual benefits generated and derived from this relationship, and understanding that The Christian and Missionary Alliance is relying hereon in agreeing to initiate or continue such relationship, this church agrees to be subject to and abide by the terms and conditions of Article XVI hereof relating to the reversion of property of accredited churches.**

### Bylaws to Article II: Relationship

#### Section 1. Key Characteristics of the C&MA's Faith Community and Mission.

The Cecil Alliance Church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (CAC) is a community of faith that exists to exercise and express its biblical beliefs within the broader community of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA). These beliefs are grounded in a shared understanding of Holy Scripture including those beliefs and standards specifically addressed in the Manual of the Christian and Missionary Alliance (Manual).

##### A. The C&MA's Biblical Beliefs.

The CAC is a community of faith based on its and the C&MA's biblical beliefs, which include the following.

1. Statement of Faith. The C&MA has adopted the statement of faith set forth in the Manual.
2. Christian Mission and Values. The CAC directs all of its activities in accordance with the following C&MA mission:

We desire to know Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King and to complete His Great Commission. The Alliance will fulfill His Commission through:

- Evangelizing and discipling persons throughout the United States
- Incorporating them into Christ-centered, community-focused congregations
- Mobilizing them for active involvement in a global effort designed to plant Great Commission churches among unengaged, unreached and responsive peoples worldwide.

In carrying out this mission, the CAC activities are conducted in accordance with the following biblical values:

Lost people matter to God. He wants them found. Luke 19:10

Prayer is the primary work of the people of God. Philippians 4:6-7

Everything we have belongs to God. We are His stewards. 1 Chronicles 29:14

Knowing and obeying God's Word is fundamental to all true success. Joshua 1:8

Completing the Great Commission will require the mobilization of every fully devoted disciple. Matthew 28:19

Without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we can accomplish nothing. 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

Achieving God's purposes means taking faith-filled risks. This always involves change. Hebrews 11:6

**B. Representatives and Other Participants**

The CAC's faith community is represented by all of the CAC's officers, directors, employees, licensed workers and volunteer leaders, each of whom serves the CAC's mission and is an integral part of the community (each such person is described for purposes of this Statement only as a CAC representative). The other community participants, including CAC members and volunteers, contribute to the CAC's faith community, but they do not represent the CAC unless they are also employees or leaders or have been designated as such by the appropriate ecclesiastical authority.

**C. Christian Exercise and Expression.**

1. As a Community. The C&MA believes that the local church is the visible organized expression of the Body of Christ and that the local church finds broader meaning and outreach in fulfilling its biblical responsibilities within the life and witness of the denomination. In addition, those who participate in the life of the C&MA, including the CAC representatives, are following the biblical command to live out their faith in community and association with other believers. Accordingly, the CAC is itself an exercise and expression of its biblical beliefs and standards.

2. Through its Mission Based Activities. The C&MA believes that all CAC activities, including the responsibilities of every CAC member and employee, should be rendered in service to God as a form of worship. Therefore, the CAC as a community of faith exercises and expresses its biblical beliefs in every activity, action, and responsibility.

## Section 2. Christian Community Standards for Ministry Activities.

### A. General Standards.

The CAC shall engage in activities and use its facilities solely to exercise and express the biblical beliefs of the CAC and the C&MA and to further the mission of both. In furtherance of this mission, the CAC may provide services or goods to, and may allow use of its facilities by, other groups and persons who are not members or employees of the CAC. But no CAC activity, nor any use of CAC facilities by another group or person, may be conducted or permitted if the CAC determines that such activity or use expresses a message of support by the CAC for any view contrary to the biblical beliefs of the CAC and the C&MA.

### B. Specific Concerns.

For many years the C&MA as a faith community has had concerns with the cultural and legal trends in North America. This resulted in specific statements being adopted by the C&MA over the years to biblically address these cultural concerns. These cultural concerns include but are not limited to divorce, marriage, human sexuality, and sanctity of life. The CAC affirms the biblical beliefs and standards expressed in each statement.

#### Marriage and Human Sexuality

As such, the CAC subscribes to the biblical belief that God creates human beings in His image as two distinct genders, male and female, and that the intended gender identity of an individual is determined by such individual's biological sex at birth. The CAC applies this belief regarding gender identity in all policies and programs in the CAC's faith community. In addition, the CAC subscribes to the biblical belief that God has instituted marriage as a covenant relationship between one man and one woman. The CAC recognizes only such marriages for all policies and programs in the CAC's faith community. Further, the CAC subscribes to the biblical belief that sexual desire is rightfully fulfilled only within marriage and that unmarried singles who abstain from sex can be whole, mature persons, as pleasing to God as persons who are faithful in marriage.

#### Sanctity of Life

Likewise, the CAC subscribes to the biblical belief that all life is sacred from conception to death and that individuals are known by God from before the foundation of the world and that human life begins at conception and that death is



under the sovereignty of God and not man. The CAC accordingly believes that no procedures should be performed for the primary objective of terminating a pregnancy and taking the life of an unborn child (such procedures are referred to herein as abortions) except in rarest of circumstances where other biblical, moral principles prevail, such as where it is medically impossible to save the life of both the mother and the child. Similarly, the CAC believes that no medical procedure should be performed that takes the life of an individual prematurely (such procedures are referred to as euthanasia). The CAC's beliefs further prohibit paying for or otherwise facilitating such procedures.

As dictated by these beliefs, the CAC as an organization shall not fund abortions in any manner, including through a health care benefit plan that covers prescription drugs that induce abortions, except in the foregoing extraordinary circumstances unless in a particular situation (1) any such drug is prescribed and used solely for a non-abortive therapeutic treatment of a covered medical condition or for an abortion in the foregoing extraordinary circumstances and (2) coverage is approved by the plan's governing body or the CAC's appropriate ecclesiastical authority. In addition, the CAC shall not participate through its health care benefit plan in a program that uses the plan as a means for providing drugs used to induce abortion, except in the foregoing extraordinary circumstances. Any requirement to facilitate abortions or euthanasia by participating in such a program, and any penalty for failing to participate in such a program, would directly and substantially burden and undermine the CAC's exercise and expression of its biblical beliefs.

### Religious Activities

In conformance with these biblical beliefs and standards, the CAC engages solely in activities that further its faith mission. All such activities can and should be vehicles for spiritual growth. Therefore, the CAC considers all of its activities to be a form of religious worship.

The CAC distinguishes between exclusive religious activities and integrated religious activities. Exclusive religious activities include devotional worship services such as chapel services conducted by the CAC, and distinctly theological education or pastoral counseling.

Integrated religious activities include activities similar to those conducted by nonreligious organizations for the benefit of society. The CAC conducts such activities in furtherance of and in accordance with its biblical beliefs.

With respect to restrictions that may be imposed on the use of funds or other benefits offered to the CAC, the CAC shall not agree to any restriction that would preclude the CAC from conducting its integrated religious activities in furtherance

of and in accordance with its religious beliefs. (The CAC may agree not to use offered funds or benefits for exclusive religious activities.)

C. Implementation.

To the extent the Governance Authority determines it to be necessary or advisable to further the CAC's mission or to cultivate the CAC's faith community, they may establish additional standards based on Holy Scripture and the beliefs and standards addressed in the Manual for the activities and programs conducted within the faith community or for CAC representatives or other community participants. The determination as to whether any particular activity or use of CAC facilities is not permitted under this Policy requires both spiritual discernment and an understanding of C&MA beliefs and standards which are applied to each particular circumstance. Such determination shall be made in conformance with this discernment and these beliefs and standards in the sole discretion of the spiritual leaders of the CAC designated by the appropriate ecclesiastical authority. With respect to uses by other groups or persons, the CAC may consider without limitation both the content of the proposed activities and whether the group or person is generally perceived by the public as advocating views contrary to the biblical beliefs of the CAC and the C&MA.

Section 3. Community Standards for CAC representatives.

A. Roles and Expectations.

In response to God's calling on their lives, CAC representatives exercise and express both their own and the C&MA's biblical beliefs and standards by working together to advance the CAC's faith mission. CAC representatives are responsible for defining, cultivating, leading and/or representing the CAC's faith community as an expression and exercise of their and the C&MA's biblical beliefs and standards. Accordingly, each CAC representative shall be expected to (1) model these biblical beliefs and standards for others, (2) perform all of their responsibilities as a service to God and (3) comply with the following obligations:

1. Biblical Beliefs. Each CAC representative shall affirm their agreement with the C&MA's statement of faith and other biblical beliefs and shall not subscribe to or promote any religious beliefs inconsistent with these beliefs.
2. Christian Conduct Standards. CAC representatives shall at all times (both during working and nonworking hours) endeavor to conduct themselves in a manner that affirms biblical standards of conduct in accordance with theirs and the C&MA's biblical beliefs.

3. Distinctly Christian Activities. Each CAC representative shall be ready, willing and able to lead or contribute to distinctly Christian activities such as worship or prayer services.

B. Noncompliance by Representatives.

If any CAC representative does not comply with the obligations set forth above, such representative shall have an obligation to disclose such noncompliance to the CAC. The CAC may determine whether such representative intends or is likely to continue in such noncompliance. If so, then the CAC may dismiss such representative from his or her position on the basis that such representative's noncompliance is inconsistent with and undermines the expression and exercise of the CAC faith community. Such action may be taken in accordance with any applicable procedures in the Uniform Policy on Discipline, Restoration and Appeal.

C. Volunteers and Contract Workers.

Volunteers and contract workers are not considered to be representatives of the CAC's faith community unless they are serving in leadership positions. Nevertheless, when volunteers and certain contract workers as determined by the CAC, serve with the CAC, they shall be required to acknowledge that they understand and agree to support the CAC's mission and values. The CAC may give preference for such service to volunteers and contract workers who share its biblical beliefs.

Section 4. Use of Church Facilities

A. Marriage Ceremony

A marriage ceremony shall not be performed without appropriate counseling sessions by the pastor. If neither the bride nor groom is a member of the church, permission must be received from the Board of Elders before the wedding ceremony may be performed.

B. Use of the Sanctuary

1) The sanctuary is open, as available, to all services of Christian worship, instruction, or ceremony, without fee, upon approval of application, in writing, to the Board of Elders stating the intended purpose and use.

2) The sanctuary is open, as available, for the funeral services of any person, without fee, at the discretion of the pastor and under his general oversight.

3) When the sanctuary is used for a wedding that has been approved by the Board of Elders, the Elders shall specify an amount of "requested honorarium" for custodial services.

C. Use of the Fellowship Hall

1) An application form must be submitted for every use other than the activities of the church and include "hold harmless" insurance.

2) Bereaved families may apply directly to the pastor for use of the fellowship hall following a funeral.

3) Outside organizations must make a written application to the Board of Elders through the pastor or church office stating the intended purpose and use.

## **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Qualifications.**

- 1. Confession of faith in Jesus Christ and evidence of regeneration.**
- 2. Belief in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; in the verbal inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as originally given; in the vicarious atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the eternal salvation of all who believe in Him and the eternal punishment of all who reject Him.**
- 3. Acceptance of the doctrines of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King.**
- 4. Full sympathy with the mission and core values of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and cooperation by systematic support of its work.**
- 5. Such other qualifications for membership as may be stated in the bylaws.**

### **Section 2. Removal.**

**Persons may be removed from membership under one or more of the following circumstances:**

- 1. Submission of a written letter of resignation to the elders of the church.**
- 2. Failure to meet the qualifications of membership as stated above.**
- 3. Disciplinary action taken under the Uniform Policy for Discipline, Restoration and Appeal of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.**

**An appeal of decisions made to remove a person from membership for reasons of qualification or a disciplinary action may be submitted to the district superintendent within 30 days of the action.**

#### Bylaws to Article III: Membership

- 1) We will promote membership in this local church. We believe that membership is a means of achieving deep and long-term commitment among our worshippers to be fully involved in the life and ministries of the church. Every Christian is called to be fully committed – to obey and please God in all aspects of life. Membership is a mutual commitment between each member and the church, which adds spiritual value for all.
- 2) Membership is a privilege that is granted on the basis of a clear profession of faith in Jesus Christ, and a lifestyle in keeping with the teachings of the Bible on Christian faith and practice, and completion of a membership class. The membership of those who openly sin and do not repent may be denied or revoked.
- 3) Persons may be received into membership of the church at age 18.
- 4) The governance authority comprise the committee which determines membership and exercises discipline.

## Section 1: Categories of Membership

1. **Active Members.** Active members will consist of those members who adhere to the conditions of membership stated in these bylaws, regularly attend and/or support this church. Only active members may vote on church matters, or serve as an Officer. Shut in members who are unable to attend but support the church, will remain on Active Membership status.

2. **Inactive Members.** Any member able to attend but ceasing to be active in the Cecil Alliance Church for a period of one (1) year and having been duly visited, encouraged, and admonished by the Elders, shall be notified in writing that his or her name is being placed on the Inactive Membership list.

Those persons who have been on the inactive member list for one year may be removed from the list after proper notification. An inactive member may be restored to the active members list by request to and approval of the Governance Authority.

3. **Honorary Members.** Honorary membership consists of those members from this church who are serving the Lord in full-time vocational Christian service away from the Cecil Alliance Church.

The Governance Authority will review the membership list at least annually and will send a letter to those persons who are placed on the inactive members list. The Governance Authority will grant Letters of Transfer upon request from the receiving church.

## Section 2: Church Discipline

1) The Uniform Policy for Discipline, Restoration, and Appeal of the Christian and Missionary Alliance will guide disciplinary actions (per Constitution Article III, Section 2). Accordingly, the purpose of church discipline is restoration; therefore, this church is committed to practicing redemptive action. Those who are members of this church must strive to live according to the teachings of the Word of God, which establish standards for life and conduct. Should a failure to live according to these standards occur, every effort will be made to resolve difficulties and misunderstandings. Any member or regular attendee who persists in sin or heresy will be subject to church discipline.

2) If discipline becomes necessary, the Scriptures will be followed in an attempt to bring restoration to the one who has morally and/or spiritually failed. Church discipline will be administered according to the guidelines of Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 5, II Thessalonians 3 and I Timothy 5:19-20.

3) A member under discipline by the Elders for a moral failure may be placed on inactive status for one year to restrict him/her from voting and holding elected office in the

church. After one year, the member may meet with the Elders to be reinstated or removed from membership altogether.

4) Members whose conduct or doctrine has become a reproach to the gospel, and who, after having been dealt with according to Scriptural discipline, remain firm in their contrary conduct or doctrine, will be removed from membership by the Governance Authority. Persons having thus forfeited their membership in this church may, on evidence of sincere repentance and satisfactory experience, be restored to membership on recommendation of the Governance Authority.

## **ARTICLE IV: ORDINANCES**

**Baptism and the Lord's Supper are recognized as the two ordinances of the church.**

**Believers' baptism by immersion is taught and practiced as the scriptural mode. The pastor or other elders shall oversee baptism. They shall provide the instruction about baptism and shall administer the baptisms themselves or choose other spiritually respected people to do these ministries.**

**The Lord's Supper is administered regularly. The pastor or other elders shall oversee Communion. They shall provide the instruction about Communion and shall administer the Communion themselves or choose other spiritually respected people to do these ministries.**

### Bylaws to Article IV: Ordinances

- 1) The Pastor(s), with the Elders, will oversee the ordinances and observances of this church, providing appropriate instruction and administering the ordinances themselves, or by choosing other spiritually respected persons to conduct these ministries.
- 2) The Lord's Supper shall be observed at least once a month.
- 3) In addition to the ordinances of Baptism and The Lord's Supper, we practice prayer for and anointing of the sick with oil by the Elders, upon request according to James 5:14. We also practice the dedication of children upon the request of the parent(s) or guardian(s).
- 4) Since we believe the Scriptures teach that water Baptism should be by immersion and should be an act subsequent to a public confession of faith, infants may be publicly dedicated to the Lord, but not baptized.



## ARTICLE V: GOVERNMENT

There shall be an annual meeting of the members of this church to be held at a time specified in the bylaws at which time the members shall receive reports of ministries, including audited reports of the treasurers, and shall elect church officers, elders, and members of the governance authority. Additional ministry positions shall be filled as specified in the local church bylaws. The governance authority, as specified in the local church bylaws, shall conduct the affairs of the church between annual meetings and shall be amenable to the membership and the district superintendent as constitutionally defined. Other meetings of the members may be called by proper notice to the membership as specified in the bylaws. On general church matters in which no legal questions are involved, it is understood that all members in good and regular standing who have reached the age of 16 years are entitled to vote, but in matters involving titles of property or legal procedure, the laws of the state determine the age at which members are eligible to vote.

### Bylaw to Article V: Government

#### Section 1: Meetings of the Membership

- a) Robert's Rules of Order shall guide the procedure for all meetings of the membership.
- b) The Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held on the third Sunday of November. Any congregational meeting and the purpose(s) of said meeting shall be announced at the regular Sunday services of the church on the two Sundays immediately prior to the meeting date. The purpose of the Annual Meeting will be to hear reports of the progress of the church, to conduct the election of the Elders, and other elected Officers and Leaders, approve the annual budget.
- c) Special meetings of the membership may be called at any time by the Church Leadership Team or by written request of ten percent (10%) of the active members, with notice of the meeting, including the purpose of the meeting, given at least two Sundays prior to the scheduled date.
- d) Quorum: Fifty-one percent (51%) of the active members of this church will constitute a quorum for any meeting of the membership.
- e) Members present at a duly organized meeting can continue to do business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum.

f) If a meeting cannot be organized because a quorum has not been met, those present may adjourn the meeting to such a place and time as they may determine, subject to the following:

- That 10 days notice be given as to the date, time and place of the second meeting.
- The issue(s) to be addressed are defined for the second meeting.
- Those in attendance at the second meeting shall constitute a quorum, 51% of total membership is not required.

g) A meeting may be continued for not more than 90 days from the date of the original meeting date.

## Section 2: Annual Reports

Written annual reports to the membership shall be submitted by the following: Nominating Committee; All Pastors; Treasurer; Trustees; Audit Committee; and others as directed by the Lead Pastor and/or Governance Authority. Such reports will cover the period January 1 through October 31. In addition, the Treasurer will submit by January 31st a final report for January 1 through December 31. All the reports of the committees and officers shall be prepared and distributed by the second Sunday of November.

## Section 3: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the church shall be January 1st through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Section 4: Terms of Office

a) The term for each elected office and most appointed offices shall run concurrent with the calendar year(s). As such, terms would start on January 1st and end on December 31st of the appropriate year.

b) Persons serving in an elected office on the Board of Ministries shall be limited to a tenure of three(3) consecutive terms regardless of office. Having served out tenure on the Board of Ministries, one may be re-elected or appointed to an office following at least a one (1) year lapse. Appointment to an office for a partial year in order to fill a vacancy prior to elections, shall not be considered towards fulfillment of tenure. (The above should not be construed to mean that any officer must be elected to more than one term in a given office.)

c) No person shall be nominated or may serve simultaneously in more than two (2) elected positions, with the exception of auditor, which may be permitted as a third office.

d) No person may hold more than one (1) position as a voting member on the Board of Ministries.

e) Memberships on the Board of Ministries (BOM) of church treasurer, church secretary, disciple-making ministries director, head trustee, and members at large shall not be considered a second office due to the fact that their memberships on the BOM are ex-officio. Though ex-officio, the above memberships will be counted toward tenure on the BOM. An Elder Representative will also serve on the BOM. The service of the Elder Representative on the BOM shall not be considered as a second office. Service as an Elder Representative is a responsibility of the Elder Board and the tenure for the position of Elder is as defined for the Elder Board.

#### Section 5: Commencement of Service

Newly elected officers whose terms have not officially begun are encouraged to attend the respective meetings of such groups between the Annual Meeting and the official start of their term on January 1st, and engage in discussions as non-voting participants. This may include preliminary planning of future appointments.

## **ARTICLE VI: GOVERNANCE AUTHORITY**

**Section 1. General.** Each local church shall structure its governance authority in accordance with the governing documents of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, the responsibilities of elders as defined in Article X, Section 1, the bylaws of the district, and the laws of the state in which the church is located. The members of the governance authority shall satisfy the scriptural standards for church leadership and shall be members of this church.

The senior pastor shall be chairman or, at his request, the governance authority shall elect an elder as chairman. An elder also shall be elected as vice chairman. Meetings shall be held for prayer and business, and abbreviated minutes shall be reported to the church as the church may decide. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or by written request of one-half of the governance authority membership. All officers, committees, and organizations except the Nominating Committee are amenable to the collective oversight of the elders.

**Section 2. Removal.** In consultation with the district superintendent and the senior pastor, any officer or auxiliary official, except licensed pastoral staff of this church whether elected at the church annual meeting or appointed by the governance authority, or any individual member of the governance authority, may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the governance authority and the approval of the district superintendent if, in the judgment of the governance authority, the best interests of this church will be served thereby.

### Bylaws to Article VI: Governance Authority

The Head of this church is the Lord Jesus Christ. His will and guidance is to be faithfully sought by every leader and member in all matters. The Governance Authority of the Cecil Alliance Church shall be known as the Board of Elders. Their work will be supplemented by a Board of Ministries. The Board of Elders shall determine the responsibilities to be delegated, necessary levels of authority, and matters of accountability. The Board of Elders shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term of any office vacated by resignation, death or dismissal.

## Section 1: Role & Function of Eldership

We believe that eldership reflects the combination of two New Testament terms, “presbyteroi” (elder) and “Episkopoi” (overseer), the first denoting the role of eldership and the second the function of eldership. It is the biblically mandated responsibility of the Elders to lead the church (Acts 15: 6, 22, Acts 20:28, 1 Peter 5:2), teach the church (Acts 16:4, Titus 1:9), and protect the church (Acts 20:28-31, Hebrews 13:17). The Elders are to be regarded as representatives of God to the people in the ordering of church affairs.

Under the leadership of the Lead Pastor, the Board of Elders will:

- a) Provide spiritual leadership for the church.
- b) Oversee the administration of the ordinances.
- c) Be vigilant to the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of the people of this church, available to pray with them, to anoint the sick upon request, and to act redemptively in matters of church discipline.
- d) Work to produce a strong sense of community in the church that is both edifying and truthful, functioning as stewards of the collective spiritual gifts of the people of this church so that provision is made for the body to function corporately to bring about its growth, health, and edification.
- e) Arouse interest in evangelism and missions by personal example, maintaining an open heart and home to the unchurched.
- f) Be faithful in the performance of their ministries, striving to guard the unity of the church.

## Section 2: Characteristics of Elders

- a) As a model of godliness for the Membership, an Elder shall demonstrate the characteristics outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
- b) While Elders may sometimes have different functions, they will work in concert to serve the Lord in the leadership of this church and advance its ministries.

## Section 3: Becoming an Elder

Any church member may recommend a potential elder to the Nominating Committee. All elder candidates will then be evaluated by the Nominating Committee. Upon confirmation of his calling and spiritual qualifications the Nominating Committee will place his name in nomination for election. Elders are then elected at the Annual Meeting.

#### Section 4: Board of Elders

a) The Board of Elders shall consist of the senior pastor and at least three (3) Elders. Each Elder will be elected by the membership.. He will serve a two-year term, as long as he remains a faithful follower of Jesus Christ, continues to exhibit the characteristics of an Elder, and remains a committed member of this church, or until he chooses to step down.

Each Elder may serve a maximum tenure of three (3) consecutive terms and may not be eligible for re-election to the Board of Elders for one year. When the needs of the congregation indicate a need for a change in the number of Elders, the incumbent Board of Elders will make a recommendation to the congregation through the Nominating Committee for approval prior to the election of elders at the annual meeting.

b) It is intended that the individual Elder's terms will be staggered so that tenure requirements overlap and that an Elder may receive a sabbatical year without breaking the continuity of the Elder Board. An Elder may be elected for a one-year term in order to establish and provide for the intended continuity of the Board.

c) The Lead Pastor will be the Chairman, or at his request, the Board of Elders shall elect an elder as chairman.

d) Elders will meet monthly at a regularly scheduled time and day. Special meetings may be called as necessary, at the discretion of the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board of Elders. Meetings will include, but not be limited to, prayer, equipping, ministry planning, training, and any other general business to come before the Board.

e) A quorum for the legal conduct of business will be two-thirds of the board members.

f) No two members of the same household may serve concurrently on the Board of Elders.

The Board of Elders is responsible for the following:

a) To discern and implement God's present vision for the church, remaining sensitive to the creative leading of the Holy Spirit, and approve the ministry plan for the church.

b) To regularly review and evaluate the ministries of the church.

c) To appoint and certify lay delegates to General Council and District Conference and report such appointments to the proper authorities as needed.

d) To periodically review and update the bylaws, and insure the publication of the Constitution and Bylaws to maintain their availability to everyone.

e ) In the event a vacancy exists in any elected or appointed church office, the Board of Elders may appoint a person to fill the unexpired term. Such an appointment will be effective through the end of the fiscal year.

- f) To approve the membership of the Disciplemaking Ministries Team

#### Section 5: Board Of Ministries

- a) The Board of Ministries will be comprised of the Lead Pastor, Elder representative, Secretary, Treasurer, Head Trustee, Disciplemaking ministries director, and two (2) Members at Large. All members, excluding Elder Representative, will be elected to one (1) year terms, and may serve no more than three (3) consecutive terms on the Board of Ministries, regardless of office held.
- b) The Lead Pastor will serve as Chairman of the Board of Ministries, the Elder representative will serve as the vice-chairman. The Board of Ministries will meet monthly at a regularly scheduled time and day. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or Vice Chairman.
- c) Quorum for the Board of Ministries to conduct legal business shall be fifty-one percent (51%) of the members.
- d) At the discretion of the Lead Pastor, the following would be periodically invited to attend meetings of the Board of Ministries to advise and consult, and have a voice in discussions, but without vote: Director of Worship Ministries; various ministry directors; and other leadership as necessary.
- e) No two members of the same household may serve concurrently as a voting member, on the Board of Ministries.

**Executive Session.** In the event that certain sensitive and/or confidential matters are to be considered by the Board of Ministries, the Lead Pastor or Vice Chairman may call for an executive session. In such cases, he may, at his discretion, excuse from attendance any or all non-voting participants. The Board of Ministries will determine by a simple majority vote which matters are sensitive and confidential.

The Board of Ministries is responsible for the following:

- a) To approve any expenditures not in the annual budget, and recommend the annual budget for the church for adoption by the membership (through the Finance/Budget Committee).
- b) To approve and implement policies and procedures not in conflict with the CAC Constitution and bylaws as are deemed necessary from time to time.
- c) To represent the church in legal or civil matters, as official officers of the church.
- d) To annually review all policies, procedures, job descriptions, and other such operating documents of the church.

- i) The Board of Ministries shall authorize the posting of abbreviated minutes of their meetings on a monthly basis.

## **ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS**

**The officers shall be members of this church and shall satisfy the scriptural standards for church leadership. They shall consist of the following who, with the exception of the senior pastor, shall be elected at the annual meeting of the church: senior pastor, secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and such other officers as may be designated in the church bylaws or in the state law.**

### Bylaws to Article VII: Officers

Officers of this church shall include all voting members of Board of Ministries.



## **ARTICLE VIII: PASTORAL STAFF**

**The governance authority shall not give consideration to any candidate for the pastoral staff without the approval of the district superintendent. Pastoral staff members shall be called by the governance authority and appointed by the district superintendent. The district superintendent shall suggest to the governance authority the names of such workers as in his judgment have proper qualifications for pastoral staff. Upon appointment by the district superintendent, a pastoral staff member and spouse become members of this church. Pastoral staff include all those whose position calls for licensing as an “official worker,” as defined in the General Regulations in the Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.**

**Any member of the pastoral staff may resign from this church by giving due notice of this intention to the district superintendent and the governance authority. The governance authority may, in conjunction with the district superintendent, ask for the resignation of any member of the pastoral staff. Before such action is taken, the governance authority and that member shall follow the guidelines as prescribed by the district superintendent. The district superintendent, with the approval of the District Executive Committee, shall have the authority to remove or transfer a member of the pastoral staff when the governance authority is in disagreement or whenever circumstances make such removal or transfer advisable.**

### Bylaws to Article VIII: Pastoral Staff

Staff pastors will be called by the Governance Authority, upon recommendation of the Lead Pastor. For each staff position, a ministry description will specify the ministry responsibilities and pertinent relationships. The term of office for a staff pastor will be indefinite, and may be terminated by either his request or that of the Governance Authority. Upon resignation, a staff pastor will immediately notify the Lead Pastor. All staff pastors must be licensed by The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

## **ARTICLE IX: DUTIES OF CHURCH OFFICERS**

**Section 1. Senior Pastor.** The senior pastor shall have oversight of this church. He shall be chairman of the governance authority except as he may choose to proceed according to the provisions in Article VI. He shall preside at all regular or special meetings of the church membership. He is a member ex-officio of all church committees and organizations. When the membership has no pastor, the chairman or vice chairman of the governance authority shall have oversight of the church in conjunction with the district superintendent. The senior pastor shall be the president of this church where such office is required by law.

**Section 2. Secretary.** The secretary shall keep the minutes of membership meetings and conduct the correspondence of this church as directed by the governance authority. The secretary shall attend and keep minutes of other meetings as specified in the local church bylaws.

**Section 3. Treasurer.** The treasurer shall receive all monies of this church and shall be responsible for the payment of all bills on the order of the governance authority as specified by the local church bylaws, keeping proper book records of all transactions, and filing canceled vouchers and receipts for payments made. The governance authority shall determine where funds of this church shall be kept. No offerings shall be solicited from the membership except upon approval of the governance authority.

**Section 4. Missionary Treasurer.** When required by local church bylaws, the missionary treasurer shall account for all missionary monies and oversee the forwarding of the same to the treasurer of The Christian and Missionary Alliance on or before the tenth of the following month.

**Section 5. Assistant Treasurer.** The assistant treasurer shall, with another person or persons appointed by the governance authority, be responsible to count all monies and keep a separate record of all receipts. The assistant treasurer may be empowered to issue receipts to the donors.

### Bylaw to Article IX: Duties of Church Officers

Church officers must be members of this church and qualified according to the Scriptural standards for church leadership. Other than the Lead Pastor, these officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Membership to serve a one-year term. Such officers may serve three (3) consecutive terms, but then must take at least one year off before being elected to another term.

#### **Section 1. Senior Pastor / Lead Pastor**

a) The senior pastor of this church shall be referred to as the Lead Pastor. The Lead Pastor will provide directional leadership to the membership by equipping them with a

vision for life and ministry anchored in God's Word, and leading them to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ through the teaching and preaching of God's Word.

b) The Lead Pastor will be the chairman of the Board of Ministries, and will preside over all meetings of the membership, except in matters pertaining to his relationship to the church. The Lead Pastor will have oversight of the pastoral staff, including their personal and professional development.

c) The Lead Pastor's term of office will be indefinite, and may be terminated by either his request or that of the Church Governance Authority (Board of Elders), in consultation with the District Superintendent.

## Section 2. Secretary

The Secretary is an official officer of the church. The Secretary shall be a voting member of the Board of Ministries. He/she will serve as secretary to both the membership and the Board of Ministries. He/she shall record, maintain, and report minutes of all meetings of each group. He/she shall report summary minutes of the Board of Ministries meetings to the membership, without compromising confidentiality. He/she shall be the custodian of all church records. Secretary's term of office shall be one (1) year with a tenure of three (3) terms.

## Section 3. Treasurer

The Treasurer is an official officer of the church. The Treasurer shall be a voting member of the Board of Ministries. He/she shall administer the central treasury of the church and oversee its business and financial affairs. He/she shall maintain all appropriate financial records as legally required or as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws. He/she is responsible to oversee counting the weekly offering and making deposit of such into proper bank accounts and to preserve confidential giving records and issue receipts to donors. He/she is responsible to prepare information to be turned over to accountant so monthly invoices can be paid. He/she is to prepare and present a monthly financial report at the Board of Ministries meeting. Treasurer's term of office shall be one (1) year with a tenure of three (3) terms.

## Section 4. Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer has responsibility to assist in the counting and weekly deposit of all monies received and to preserve confidential giving records and issue receipts to donors. The Assistant Treasurer is expressly prohibited from signing checks or otherwise authorizing any disbursement or use of church funds. The Assistant Treasurer's term shall be one (1) year with a tenure of three (3) terms.

## Section 5. Missionary Treasurer

The Treasurer shall also serve as Missionary Treasurer.

## **ARTICLE X: COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

**Section 1. Elders.** The call of Christ the Chief Shepherd to men to serve as elders is both discerned and confirmed by the church membership. Elders shall therefore be male members of this church and shall be elected as specified in the church bylaws. The pastor and the other elders are the highest level of servant leadership in the church. As undershepherds, elders shall serve with the senior pastor to oversee both the temporal and spiritual affairs of the local church in order to accomplish Christ's mission. They shall constitute the Committee on Membership. They shall be the Committee on Discipline in accordance with the Uniform Policy on Discipline, Restoration, and Appeal of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. All officers, committees, and organizations except the Nominating Committee are amenable to the collective oversight of the elders through the governance authority.

**Section 2. Deacons.** The deacons shall be members of this church and shall be appointed or elected as specified in the local church bylaws. The deacons shall have charge of those ministries and charities of the church as specified in the bylaws, receive offerings for such purposes and dispense the same, and make monthly reports as directed. Where there are no deacons, the governance authority shall assume responsibility for their ministries until such are elected or appointed.

**Section 3. Deaconesses.** Deaconesses shall be members of this church and shall be appointed or elected as specified in the local church bylaws. The deaconesses shall have charge of those ministries as specified in the bylaws. Where there are no deaconesses, the governance authority shall assume responsibility for their ministries until such are elected or appointed.

**Section 4. Trustees.** The trustees shall be members of this church and may be appointed or elected as specified in the local church bylaws. Trustees shall have charge of those ministries and duties as specified in the bylaws, or the laws of the state in which the church is located. Where there are no trustees, the governance authority shall assume responsibility for those ministries and duties until such are elected or appointed.

**Section 5. Great Commission Women.** Local church Great Commission Women Ministries may be established. They shall be organized according to the Great Commission Women policies as contained in the C&MA's Manual.

## Bylaw to Article X: Committees and Organizations

### Section 1: Elders

- a) The senior pastor shall be chairman of the Board of Elders and shall serve as coach to the Elders.
- b) There shall be a Vice Chairman of the Elder Board who will be elected by and from that board at the first regularly scheduled meeting following the annual meeting. The Vice Chairman shall serve as Lead Elder.
- c) The Board of Elders will evaluate the Lead Pastor annually. The Lead Pastor will evaluate ministry and Support Staff and make recommendations to the Board of Elders.
- d) The Elders term shall be two (2) years with a tenure of three (3) terms.
- e) One Elder shall serve as Elder Representative, a voting position on the Board of Ministries.
- f) The Board of Elders may confer the title of Elder Emeritus to an Elder. He shall be eligible to perform all the duties of an active Elder except that he shall not be entitled to a vote. He will keep this status for life unless he resigns or is removed for cause.

### Section 2: Deacons/Deaconesses

- a) The Board of Deacons/Deaconesses shall consist of a representative number of Deacons/Deaconesses in keeping with the current ministry needs of the Membership.
- b) Deacons/Deaconesses shall be members of this church and qualified according to the Scriptural standards for church leadership
- c) The Deacon/Deaconesses will serve the church in accordance with the Guidelines for Deacon Ministries approved by the Board of Elders.
- d) Potential Deacons/Deaconesses shall be sought out by the nominating committee and be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting for election to office.
- e) The Deacons/Deaconesses shall choose from among themselves a lead Deacon/Deaconess at their first regularly scheduled meeting following the annual meeting.
- f) Deacons/Deaconesses shall convene monthly at a designated time and place.
- g) The Deacons/Deaconesses shall be responsible for the benevolence ministries of this church and are solely in charge of receiving and disbursing funds from the Benevolent Fund.
- h) The Deacon/Deaconesses term shall be one (1) year with a three (3) term tenure.

### Section 3: Trustees

- a) Trustees must be members of this church and qualified according to the Scriptural standards for church leadership. The Nominating Committee shall present qualified individuals to be elected each year.
- b) The Governance Authority will be empowered to recommend adjustments in the number of Trustees for approval by the Membership at the annual meeting.
- c) The Head Trustee will be elected by the congregation at the annual meeting and serve as a voting member on the Board of Ministries.
- d) The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and development of the buildings and grounds of this church in conjunction with the administrative ministries staff.
- e) Trustees shall convene as needed at a designated time and place.
- f) The Trustee's term shall be one (1) year with a tenure of three (3) terms.

### Section 4: Members at Large.

- a) In an effort to achieve broad representation of the congregation, two at-large members shall be elected by the membership to serve as voting members on the Board of Ministries.
- b) Such individuals must be regular attending members of this church and qualified according to the Scriptural standards for church leadership. Vote and voice opinions on board decisions at the monthly meeting. Serve actively in the church in some capacity of their choosing. This is done so that they have an investment within the church.
- c) They will represent the congregation at the Board of Ministries to provide a voice and feedback on how the congregation is doing and how the congregation feels the board is performing. This is done so that the board is aware of positive feedback as well as concerns raised within the congregation.
- d) The term of office shall be one (1) year with three (3) term tenure.

## Section 5: Worship Team

The Worship Team will consist of persons willing to serve the congregation through ministry with demonstrated proficiency in singing, playing an instrument, computer applications, managing the sound system, visual or other interpretive arts. Those serving the Worship Team will annually complete "Worship Team Covenant" and will be subject to approval by the Board of Elders.

## Section 6: Other Committees/Organizations.

Other committees and organizations may be established by the Governance Authority when relevant. Such committees and organizations shall be under the direction of and report to the Board of Ministries.

Chairpersons shall be appointed by the Governance Authority for all standing committees.

## **ARTICLE XI: MISSIONS MOBILIZATION**

**The church shall participate in the worldwide missions and church planting ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and the support of the Great Commission Fund. The Governance Authority shall specify the means by which it purposes to mobilize members' involvement, including prayer, recruitment of men and women for vocational ministry both at home and abroad. A Missions Conference or congregation-wide event for missions mobilization shall be held each year.**

## **ARTICLE XII: DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES**

**A major ministry of this church shall be making disciples of Jesus Christ. The discipling process includes evangelism, building up believers, equipping workers, and multiplying leaders, among adults, youth, and children. The Governance Authority shall specify how discipling is to be pursued. The purpose of discipling ministries is to bring people to a saving knowledge of Christ, teach biblical principles emphasizing missions and the centrality of Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King, and equip people for evangelism and Christian service.**

### Bylaw to Article XII: Discipling Ministries

The Discipling Ministries Team (DMT) shall be led by the Discipling Ministries Director and comprised of a team submitted and approved by the Elders annually. The DMT will report directly to the Board of Ministries through monthly DMT director's report and will be directly responsible to work with the Board of Elders to carry out an effective Discipling effort. Responsibilities will include but not be limited to Sunday School and Teaching Activities, Children's and Vacation Bible School Ministries, Adult and Youth Ministries.



## **ARTICLE XIII: PROPERTY AND RECORDS**

**Section 1. Property.** This church may acquire, own, dispose of, improve, encumber, and convey property, real and personal, for church purposes, in conformity with the laws of the state where the property is situated.

Real property may be purchased, sold, conveyed, exchanged, mortgaged, or encumbered only by order of the membership through the governance authority in consultation with the district superintendent. In states where trustees are required, the order of the membership shall proceed through them.

**Section 2. Records.** The official records of all officers of the church and all its departments are the property of the church. In the event of the death or resignation of the incumbent or upon the election of his successor, the current records of the office shall be passed on to the newly elected officer. All records other than current shall be kept in a secure repository selected by the governance authority.

**Section 3. Audit.** All financial records shall be examined annually or at more frequent intervals on order of the governance authority. At least three persons, none of whom is a financial officer or a church staff member, shall be appointed by the governance authority to conduct the examination. They shall follow procedures set forth in the current edition of the Manual for Alliance Church Treasurers (and Pastors). The governance authority shall authorize actions to conform with additional audit standards that may be required by the jurisdiction in which the church is located.

### Bylaws to Article XIII: Property and Records

#### Section 1: Property

Real property may be purchased, sold, conveyed, exchanged, mortgaged, or encumbered only by order of two-thirds of the votes cast at a meeting of the membership.

#### Section 2: Expenditures

A Finance/Budget Committee will be appointed by the Governance Authority in January to prepare the annual budget. This budget will be approved by the Governance Authority at their September meeting, and approved by the Membership at the Annual Meeting. Approval will be by simple majority vote. Any non-budgeted expenditure must be approved by the Board of Ministries, unless otherwise stated in any other adopted church policy. This section does not apply to real property as covered in these Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 1.

### Section 3: Auditing

- a) The auditors shall do a complete audit of the church records for the fiscal year of January 1 through December 31. The auditors should complete their work and prepare a report to be distributed to the congregation with the final treasurer's reports by no later than the last Sunday in February. The auditor's report is to be included in the annual report distributed at the annual meeting in November. Refer to Article XIII, Section 3 of the Constitution.
- b) Three auditors shall be appointed by the governance authority.
- c) Persons living in the same household shall not serve concurrently as auditors.
- d) Persons related to the treasurer or assistant treasurer shall not serve as auditor.
- e) Term of office for an auditor shall be one year with a three (3) term tenure. Having served out tenure as an auditor, one may be re-appointed as an auditor following a one (1) year lapse.
- f) Auditors are not required to be a member of the church.

## ARTICLE XIV: NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**A Nominating Committee shall consist of the senior pastor, two members from the church membership, selected by, but not necessarily from the governance authority, and two elected from the church membership in a manner stipulated by the local church bylaws, at least one month prior to the annual meeting.**

### Bylaw to Article XIV: Nominating Committee

- 1) The Nominating Committee will consist of the Lead Pastor as chairman, two (2) members shall be elected by the Board of Ministries and two(2)members elected by the congregation at the annual meeting in November. The work of this committee shall commence January 1 and be completed by placing a report on the bulletin board at least four (4) weeks prior to the annual congregational meeting in November and a copy be made available for each active member.
- 2) The Nominating Committee should work to select qualified persons who meet Scriptural Standards as set forth herein, for all elected positions. The names of those people selected shall be placed on a ballot for the election held at the annual meeting.
- 3) The Nominating Committee shall operate separately, independently, and shall not be amenable to any other church committee, but shall in no way be prohibited from seeking or receiving input from any church member.
- 4) Nominations of members may be made by members in good standing, in writing, as soon as four (4) weeks prior to the annual meeting in November and no later than one week prior to the same. Those to be nominated shall have given their consent prior to their nomination.
- 5) The specific procedure implementing the nomination process shall be determined by the Board of Elders.
- 6) No person shall serve more than two (2) consecutive years on the nominating committee.
- 7) No two (2) members of the same household may serve concurrently on the nominating committee.

## ARTICLE XV: ELECTIONS

**In consideration of elections, the Nominating Committee shall present at least one name for each office to be filled. Other nominations may be made by the membership as stipulated in the church bylaws. The officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting. Where only one name is presented, the ballot may be waived by unanimous vote.**

### Bylaw to Article XV: Elections

- 1) Names of the nominees from the Nominating Committee will be published at least four weeks prior to the election, so as to provide reasonable notice to the membership.
- 2) Nominees deemed qualified by the Nominating Committee will be presented as candidates and included on the official ballot(s).
- 3) The Nominating Committee shall prepare the ballot(s) for the vote of the membership. At the time of the election, a majority of the votes cast will determine election.
- 4) All voting shall be by paper ballot with voting members writing their selection on a ballot form, or a premade ballot with printed names and a box to be checked may be used.
- 5) Ballot counting shall be performed by two (2) or three (3) ballot counters elected from the floor and who are not on the ballot, and not immediate family members of someone listed on the ballot.
- 6) A majority of the votes cast shall determine the outcome of the votes cast for elected positions in the church.

## **ARTICLE XVI: REVERSION OF PROPERTY**

**Recognizing the purpose of the members of this congregation to support both the doctrines and the mission of The Christian and Missionary Alliance through the contribution of their tithes, offerings, and special gifts, and to ensure that the future use of such assets and real property as this church may from time to time acquire shall not be diverted from this purpose, this church adopts the following property reversion clause.**

**1. Property Reversion Events. Any of the following shall constitute a “property reversion event:” (a) the decision or action of this church to disaffiliate or otherwise separate itself from The Christian and Missionary Alliance without the prior written approval of such decision or action by the District Executive Committee (or its equivalent) of the district in which this church is located, (b) the failure for any reason of this church to be subject to or abide by any of the purposes, usages, doctrines, or teachings of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, (c) the failure for any reason of this church to qualify as an “accredited church” of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (as such term is defined in the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance), or (d) the termination of this church’s existence for any reason.**

**2. Determination of a Property Reversion Event. The determination of whether a property reversion event has occurred shall be considered and decided by the District Executive Committee (or its equivalent) of the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located in accordance with procedures established from time to time by the Board of Directors of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. The decision of such District Executive Committee (or its equivalent) shall be final and binding on The Christian and Missionary Alliance, the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located, and this church, and may not be challenged by any party in the absence of fraud, collusion, or arbitrariness. Should any party choose to challenge a decision based on fraud, collusion, or arbitrariness, such appeal shall only be made to the Board of Directors of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. In order to expedite review of such appeals, the Board of Directors may establish a Board of Directors committee of not less than five Board members for the purpose of handling such appeals. The decision of the Board of Directors or its committee shall be final and binding on all parties.**

**3. Consequences of a Property Reversion Event.** Upon the occurrence of a property reversion event as determined in accordance with item 2 above, legal title to all real and personal property (tangible and intangible), appurtenances, fixtures, and effects of whatever type then owned, held, or used by this church, without regard to how or from whom acquired, shall, upon the demand of the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located, revert to and become the property of such district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. During the period of time between the occurrence of the property reversion event and the complete and final transfer of legal title to the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located, this church shall hold such property in trust for such district to be used exclusively to further the purposes, usages, doctrines, and teachings of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

**4. Waiver of Certain Property Reversion Events.** In the event of a property reversion event attributable to differences in doctrine between this church and The Christian and Missionary Alliance, the property reversion process set forth above may be waived upon the approval of (a) at least two-thirds of the members in good standing of this church, (b) the District Executive Committee (or its equivalent) of the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located, and (c) Church Ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

**5. Exclusion of Certain Property.** Paragraph 3 above shall not apply to any real or personal property which (i) this church owned prior to its becoming an accredited church, and (ii) is expressly identified as property not subject to paragraph 3 above in a written agreement entered into in connection with such accreditation between this church and the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church was located upon its accreditation. The exclusion of property pursuant to this paragraph 5, and the agreement described in the preceding sentence, shall (1) terminate ten (10) years after this church's accreditation, and (2) not apply to any church that was in developing status prior to its accreditation.

## **ARTICLE XVII: BYLAWS**

**Church bylaws not in conflict with this Constitution, the provisions of the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, the bylaws of the district within which the church is located, or the laws of the state are required and will be adopted by a duly called meeting of the church. As a minimum, the church bylaws will include provisions for the composition and name of its governance authority that is in keeping with Article VI. A copy of such bylaws shall be filed with the district superintendent.**

### Bylaws to Article XVII: Bylaws

- 1) These bylaws may be changed or amended from time to time.
- 2) The Governance Authority shall appoint a committee to review and update these bylaws.
- 3) All bylaws will require two (2) readings at congregational meetings prior to final adoption.

## **ARTICLE XVIII: AMENDMENTS**

**This Constitution may be amended only by the General Council of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in accordance with the provisions of Section 10.2 of the Amended and Restated Constitution and Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance as applied to the Uniform Constitution for Accredited Churches.**

## **ARTICLE XIX: CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW**

**In cases where any provision of this Constitution may not conform to state laws, the district concerned shall be authorized to make such adjustments as necessary in counsel with the vice president for Church Ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance so as to conform to such laws.**

Approved by the Board of Elders 04/20/2017  
Approved by the Board of Ministries 05/22/2017  
First reading by the congregation 06/25/2017  
Second reading and approval by the congregation 07/09/2017