

Recommendation 1

Certification of Women who have completed the Consecration and Ordination process as stated in C&MA Manual Section E4 & E5 and The Alliance Church Ministries District Handbook section LO&CC Guide.

General Council 2023 Council Decision

The Adoption of Item 6.16, regarding Designation of reverend (page 158), in the Business Minutes of the 2023 General Council Report reads:

*“While the **designation of reverend is conferred by the LO&CC** upon completion of the consecration and ordination process outlined in the Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, each local church may determine the use of this designation as appropriate in their context.”*

CM Interpretation of Council Decision

The designation “Reverend” will be granted by the district’s License, Ordination, and Consecration Council to all who are consecrated and ordained (CM Handbook/LO&CC, p. 2).

All certificates, except those issued to National Office personnel, will be issued and/or approved by the district superintendent where the worker serves, or to which he/she is applying for service, after consultation with the pastor and elders of the church where the applicant maintains membership (CM Handbook/ LO&CC, p. 3).

Exception: “As a result of Council changes, women in ministry can now receive a Consecrated and Ordained Official Worker License – with Rev. as title. Or, if the conviction of the female official worker prohibits her from ordination, she can now receive a Consecrated Official Worker License – with the title: Miss, Mrs. and CWM after their name.” (National Office Communications, Janet Spriggs, email dated 10/3/2023)

Summary: All Consecrated and Ordination certificates are to be issued and approved by the District Superintendent with the designation of “Reverend” granted by the LO&CC to all who have completed the consecration and ordination process, with the exception that a female official worker’s conviction prohibits her from the title “Reverend,” may be granted the title Miss or Mrs., with CWM after her name.

Recommendation

All licensed female provisional workers who decide to pursue Consecration and Ordination in the Hmong District shall agree to abide by Hmong District’s conviction that the title “Reverend” confers spiritual and ecclesiastical authority within a Hmong District Church that has been reserved for only male clergy members.

It is recommended that:

The Hmong District holds biblically that a woman may be licensed to serve in ministry but not with the title “Pastor” and/or “Reverend.” An official licensed female worker serving and/or pursuing consecration and ordination with the Hmong District, upon her completion, will not be conferred with the title “Reverend” but the title “Miss” or “Mrs.” with Consecrated Woman Ministry (CWM) after her name.

Recommendation 2

The use of the title “Pastor” and “Reverend” in a Hmong District Local Church

General Council 2023 Decision

The Adoption of Item 6.15, regarding the use of the Title of Pastor (page 157), in the Business Minutes of the 2023 General Council Report reads:

*“The title pastor, except lead pastor, **may be used by a local church** to refer to its male and female official workers if its biblical understanding allows.”*

CM Interpretation of Council Decision:

Authority was given by Council 2023 to each local church to determine by their biblical understanding whether a female official worker may use the title pastor. Whichever option the local church chooses will be acceptable and respected within our Alliance family (CM Handbook/ LO&CC, p. 3)

Recommendation

The 2023 General Council has granted the local church the privilege of designating the title of “Pastor” to a female worker. While the Hmong District affirms that “women may engage in any kind of ministry except that which involves elder authority (C&MA Manual Section B1.4),” it is our conviction that the title “Pastor” and “Reverend” conveys spiritual and ecclesiastical authority equivalent to or even above that of an elder in a Hmong Church. The Hmong District’s Biblical understanding that the title of “pastor” belongs to male only.

Therefore, to circumvent conflict, confusion, and division in Hmong District churches, **it is recommended that:**

Each local church of the Hmong District must hold the Hmong District’s biblical understanding that a woman may be licensed to serve with a different title other than “Pastor” and/or “Reverend” as allowed under the C&MA Manual Section B1.4.