

A4

UNIFORM CONSTITUTION FOR DISTRICTS OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

The Uniform Constitution for Districts 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. Each district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance shall adopt and be governed by the following constitution.

PREAMBLE

The district organization in The Christian and Missionary Alliance is designed to help churches fulfill Jesus' command to make disciples of all peoples and to provide for the regional relationships which are indicated in the New Testament. While the local assembly is the primary visible form of the church, the relationships beyond the congregation are essential if the local church is to fulfill its function in fellowship, evangelism, church health and multiplication, and world missions.

Therefore, The Christian and Missionary Alliance churches of this district are 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 and enabling of the Holy Spirit.

ARTICLE I NAME

This district shall be known as the _____ District of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. Its geographical or cultural boundaries are defined by the Board of Directors of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and may be changed from time to time by such Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

The organization of this district shall be in harmony with this constitution and the Amended and Restated Constitution and Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (the "Bylaws") and shall include all accredited, developing, and affiliated churches, official workers, and ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance within the district, except those under the immediate supervision of the Board of

Directors of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Section 1. District Conference. The District Conference shall constitute the legislative body of this district. Its legislation shall be limited to district affairs and in no case shall such legislation be in conflict with the actions of the General Council of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. The District Conference may recommend amendments to existing national policies and procedures for districts or new policies and procedures to the District Leadership Forum through the district superintendent; it may recommend changes or additions to the *C&MA Manual* through the district superintendent; and it may recommend new general policies for The Christian and Missionary Alliance through the district superintendent. This district shall adopt bylaws setting forth, among other things, the rules and procedures governing its District Conference. This district shall hold a District Conference each year and there shall be two types of delegates to the District Conference: "accredited delegates" and "corresponding delegates." Accredited delegates shall be entitled to vote. The conference shall be held at the time(s) stated in the district bylaws with the format and agenda to be determined by the District Executive Committee, or as stated in the district bylaws and in conformity with the requirements of state law. The agenda during business sessions shall include elections as necessary, an evaluation of the progress of the district ministry, financial reports, and other related matters as stated in the district bylaws or required by state law.

A. **Accredited Delegates.** Those eligible to be accredited delegates to the District Conference shall be limited to the following individuals:

- (1) All persons holding official worker licenses in this district and other officers of this district.
- (2) All evangelists residing in this district licensed by the Board of Directors.
- (3) Lay delegates as follows:
 - (a) Each accredited church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance shall be entitled to send two lay delegates, in addition to its official workers. If the voting membership (as reported in the last annual report of the church) is 150 or more, another lay delegate may be sent for each additional 100 voting members or fraction thereof. The church shall appoint and certify lay delegates as specified in the local church bylaws.
 - (b) Each developing church shall be entitled to send one lay delegate chosen from among the congregation's general members by the Church Advisory Board and appointed by the district superintendent, in addition to its official workers. The church shall appoint and certify lay delegates as specified in the local church bylaws.

- (c) Each affiliated church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance shall be entitled to appoint and certify one lay delegate as specified in the local church bylaws, in addition to its official workers.
 - (4) Members or representatives of the Board of Directors of The Christian and Missionary Alliance who may be able to attend.
 - (5) Lay members of the District Executive Committee.
 - (6) The director of district Alliance Women.
 - (7) Any military chaplain on active duty or other federal chaplain duly credentialed as an official worker of The Christian and Missionary Alliance who is serving his/her assignment in this district at the time of the District Conference.
 - (8) All retired or disabled international workers and U.S. official workers residing in this district whose names appear on the official worker list of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.
 - (9) Laypersons who are either elected or appointed as specified in the district's bylaws to serve on the regional college Board of Trustees.
 - (10) Other persons holding official worker licenses, lay minister licenses, or vocational certificates who have been accredited by the District Executive Committee.
- B. **Corresponding Delegates.** The following persons shall be eligible to attend the District Conference as nonvoting, corresponding delegates:
- (1) Official representatives of each of the four areas of ministry of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.
 - (2) International workers of The Christian and Missionary Alliance who may be able to attend.
 - (3) Official representatives of educational work connected with The Christian and Missionary Alliance.
 - (4) On recommendation of the District Conference Committee on Credentials, any member of The Christian and Missionary Alliance visiting the Conference may be admitted as a corresponding delegate by a two-thirds vote of the Conference.

(5) One representative of a cooperating non-Alliance church.

- C. **Quorum.** One-third of the number of accredited delegates shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. District Executive Committee.

- A. **General.** The District Executive Committee shall be the Board of Directors of the corporation. This committee shall consist of the officers of the district and such other members as shall be elected by the District Conference. As much as possible, they shall represent the various sections of this district. This Committee shall consist of not less than nine members.

The administrative work of this district shall be committed to the District Executive Committee of which the district superintendent shall be the chairperson. It may appoint a subcommittee to act with the district superintendent between meetings of the District Executive Committee and report to the District Executive Committee.

The District Executive Committee may request an audited report at any regular meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the District Executive Committee to appoint annually an independent Certified Public Accountant who shall perform an examination of the district's financial statements. Furthermore, the District Executive Committee shall appoint annually an Audit Review Committee that shall meet with the auditor to review the audit and management letter and shall submit a report of its review to the District Executive Committee. These reports and the annual audit or review by the auditor shall be submitted to the Board of Directors through the National Office¹.

- B. **Removal.** Any officer or supporting organization official, except the district superintendent, of the [district] of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, whether elected by District Conference or appointed by the District Executive Committee, or any individual member of the District Executive Committee, may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the District Executive Committee if, in the judgment of the District Executive Committee, the best interests of the [district] of The Christian and Missionary Alliance will be served thereby. This decision must be reviewed and approved by the National Office prior to becoming effective.

Section 3. Officers. The officers of this district shall consist of district superintendent, assistant district superintendent, secretary, and treasurer.

¹ National Office is defined in the Amended and Restated Constitution and Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance as the Office of the President of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and those corporate officers and staff serving under corporate authority of such president.

- A. **District Superintendent.** The district superintendent shall be the recognized head of the district organization and member ex officio of all district committees and shall exercise oversight of the entire work of this district. The district superintendent shall be the president of the corporation where such office is required by law.
- B. **Assistant District Superintendent.** The need for an assistant district superintendent shall be determined by the Board of Directors. He is a member ex officio of the District Executive Committee.
- C. **Secretary.** The district secretary shall keep the minutes of the District Conference and the minutes of all meetings of the District Executive Committee and shall perform all other duties pertaining to his/her office or as assigned by the District Executive Committee.
- D. **Treasurer.** The district treasurer shall supervise the receipt and disbursement of all funds intended for expenditure for district purposes as directed by the District Executive Committee. He/she shall present to the District Conference an annual financial report and shall prepare for the District Executive Committee such reports as it may request.

Section 4. Elections.

- A. **District Superintendent.** The district superintendent shall be elected by the District Conference and appointed by the National Office. His term of office shall be four years, beginning the August 1 or January 1 following his election. He is eligible for three consecutive terms. He is eligible again after the lapse of one term.

The district shall establish a District Superintendent Search Committee at least ten months in advance of the District Conference at which an election is to take place, according to the district bylaws and the guidelines provided by the National Office. A list of the names of workers who have proper qualifications for district superintendent shall be developed in consultation with the National Office.

The Committee on Nominations or any person making a nomination must consult with the National Office prior to presenting a nominee to District Conference. The Board of Directors may present a nomination if requested.

Election shall be by ballot and shall be determined by two-thirds of the votes cast.

In the event that a decision cannot be reached by the District Conference, the Board of Directors shall appoint a district superintendent for up to one term. In the

event of death, resignation, or involuntary removal of the district superintendent where there is no assistant district superintendent in accordance with the policies set by the Board of Directors, the National Office shall appoint an individual to perform the duties of the district superintendent until the office has been filled either by the Board of Directors or by election of the District Conference.

In the event of removal of a district superintendent, the District Executive Committee shall follow the procedures outlined in the *Discipline Policy Handbook*.

- B. **Assistant District Superintendent.** When authorized by the Board of Directors, an assistant district superintendent may be elected by the District Conference and appointed by the National Office. His term of office shall be four years, beginning the August 1 or January 1 following his election. He is eligible for three consecutive terms. He shall be nominated by the district superintendent through the Committee on Nominations of the district after consulting with the National Office. Should the nomination be unacceptable to the Committee on Nominations, it shall be referred back to the district superintendent. The vote of the District Conference shall be by ballot and shall be affirmative or negative with respect to the name presented and shall be determined by two-thirds of the votes cast.

In the event of the death, resignation, or removal of the assistant district superintendent, the district superintendent, in consultation with the National Office and the District Executive Committee may appoint an individual to perform the duties of the assistant district superintendent until the office is filled by the above-stated procedure.

- C. Other officers of this district and members of the District Executive Committee shall be elected by the District Conference annually or as may be specified in the district bylaws.
- D. The Credentialing Council shall be elected by the District Conference, or appointed by the District Executive Committee, as may be specified in the district bylaws.
- E. The director of the district Alliance Women shall be selected as provided for within the national policy contained in the *CM Handbook*.
- F. Other district committees or personnel shall be elected or appointed as specified in the district bylaws.

Section 5. Credentialing Council (CC). There shall be a single Credentialing Council in each district. The Credentialing Council shall be elected by the District Conference

or appointed by the District Executive Committee, as may be specified in the district bylaws. The Credentialing Council shall examine and recommend approval for the licensing of official workers and approve leaves of absence. All licenses and leaves of absence recommended and approved shall be issued by the district superintendent. The Credentialing Council shall examine and ordain or consecrate qualified candidates for the Christian ministry.

District practices and procedures in matters of licensing, consecration and ordination, and discipline are subject to the uniform policies pertaining thereto as promulgated and amended from time to time by The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Section 6. Disciplemaking Ministries. This district shall encourage, coordinate, and give oversight to disciplemaking ministries in churches as well as provide resources and training for such ministries at all age levels. This district shall specify the means by which these ministries are pursued within its bylaws.

Section 7. Church Health and Multiplication. This district shall encourage, coordinate, and give oversight to church planting and multiplication ministries throughout the district as well as provide ongoing assessment and consultation for the continued growth of healthy congregations. This district shall specify the means by which these ministries are pursued within the district in its bylaws.

Section 8. Mission Mobilization. This district shall mobilize district churches for the accomplishment of the Great Commission by encouraging participation in the worldwide missionary and church planting efforts of The Christian and Missionary Alliance including but not limited to, active promotion of and support for the Great Commission Fund. This district shall specify the means by which mobilization efforts are pursued within the district in its bylaws.

Section 9. Property.

A. This district may acquire, own, dispose of, improve, encumber, and convey property, real and personal, for district purposes, in conformity with the laws of the state where the property is situated. Where trustees are required, they shall be elected by the District Conference according to law. Such property may be sold, conveyed, exchanged, or encumbered under the order of the District Conference and authority of the District Executive Committee by the trustees, or by the district superintendent and secretary, or other district officer, in conformity with the laws of the state where the property is situated. Where state law permits, the District Conference may empower the District Executive Committee to acquire, dispose of, improve, encumber, and convey property, real and personal, on behalf of the District Conference.

B. This district may adopt a bylaw empowering any three of its officers to release a

reversionary or other contingent interest in the real property of an accredited church in the event of the sale of church real property, or to subordinate such interest to a mortgage, when it is in the best interest of both the church and this district.

C. This district is connected with and subordinate to its parent religious organization, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, a Colorado nonprofit corporation, headquartered in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. 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 district agrees as follows.

(1) **Property Reversion Events.** Any of the following shall constitute a "property reversion event:" (a) the decision or action of this district to disaffiliate or otherwise separate itself from The Christian and Missionary Alliance without the prior written approval of such decision or action by the Board of Directors of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, (b) the failure for any reason of this district to be subject to or abide by any of the purposes, usages, doctrines, or teachings of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, or (c) the termination of this district'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 Board of Directors of The Christian and Missionary Alliance or its Executive Committee in accordance with procedures established from time to time by the Board of Directors of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. The decision of the Board of Directors of The Christian and Missionary Alliance or its Executive Committee shall be final and binding on The Christian and Missionary Alliance and the district except an appeal from such decision may be taken, within 30 days of the declaration of a reversionary event, to a committee of three members of the Board of Directors of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. Such appeal shall be limited to the issues of fraud, collusion, or arbitrariness on the part of the district in declaring a reversionary event. The decision of such committee shall be final as a matter of ecclesiastical law.

(3) **Consequences of a Property Reversion Event.** Upon the occurrence of a property reversion event as determined in accordance with paragraph (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 district, without regard to how or from whom acquired, shall, upon the demand of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, revert to and become the property 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 Christian and Missionary

Alliance, this district shall hold such property in trust for The Christian and Missionary Alliance to be used exclusively to further the purposes, usages, doctrines, and teachings of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Section 10. Accredited Churches. Accredited churches shall be those churches satisfying the requirements set forth in Section 3.1 of the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. The spiritual ministry of the church shall be under the care of a pastor who shall be appointed by the district superintendent in conjunction with the governance authority.

Section 11. Developing Churches. Developing churches shall be those churches recognized as such by the district and operating under the Policy for the Governance of a Developing Church with the objective of becoming a fully accredited church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. Each newly established church shall first be reported as a developing church.

Section 12. Affiliated Churches. Churches not satisfying the requirements of Section 3.1 of the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance but desiring to cooperate in various degrees of fellowship with The Christian and Missionary Alliance may be classified as affiliated churches. Each affiliated church shall adopt and comply with the requirements, terms, and provisions for affiliated churches as promulgated and amended from time to time by The Christian and Missionary Alliance. Each affiliated church shall have the privilege of sending one accredited lay delegate to the District Conference.

Section 13. Cooperating Non-Alliance Churches. Churches outside The Christian and Missionary Alliance but desiring to cooperate in various degrees of fellowship with The Christian and Missionary Alliance may be classified as cooperating non-Alliance churches. Each cooperating non-Alliance church shall direct to The Christian and Missionary Alliance its Great Commission Fund offerings. Each cooperating non-Alliance church shall have the privilege of sending one corresponding delegate to the District Conference.

Section 14. Supporting Organizations. Proposals for establishment and operation of all postsecondary educational institutions, retirement centers, and any other such similar ministries within this district which are directly controlled by the district, shall first be recommended by the District Executive Committee to the Board of Directors through the proper area for its action. They shall not be established unless and until authorized by the Board of Directors.

Section 15. Evangelists. Upon recommendation of the District Executive Committee, or a committee appointed by the District Conference, the district superintendent may license evangelists who reside in this district and who hold membership in The Christian and Missionary Alliance, even though their fields of

service extend outside the boundaries of this district. They shall report annually to the District Executive Committee concerning their activities.

Section 16. Publication Work. *Alliance Life* is recognized as the official communications vehicle of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Section 17. Bylaws. This district may adopt bylaws not in conflict with the provisions of this Constitution or the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Section 18. Amendments. This Constitution may be amended 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 Districts.

Section 19. Conformance with Applicable Law. In cases where any provision of this Constitution may not conform to state laws, this district shall be authorized to make such adjustments as necessary in counsel with the National Office of The Christian and Missionary Alliance so as to conform to such laws.

ARTICLE III EMERGENCIES

In the event that a district superintendent is involved in a catastrophic disaster as contained in Section 12.1B(2) of the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, the assistant district superintendent, district secretary, or district treasurer shall call a meeting of the District Executive Committee as soon as possible thereafter to make interim arrangements. The District Executive Committee shall function until a Disaster Committee has arranged a program in accordance with Section 12.1B(2) of the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.