

## **Policy on Local Churches**

### **1. Member Church**

A member church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada (C&MA) shall be established when an association of people who have voted to become a member church of the C&MA and to abide by the governing documents of the C&MA has been accepted as a member church by the District Executive Committee of the District within which the church is located.

Member churches of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada that are fully organized shall be governed by the Local Church Constitution. The local church may adopt additional bylaws, policies and regulations which govern the local church but in no case shall such bylaws, policies and regulations contradict the provisions of the Local Church Constitution.

Member churches of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada which have fewer than fifteen (15) members or which are not yet fully organized shall be governed by the Constitution for Developing Churches. The Developing Church may become fully organized and adopt the Local Church Constitution upon approval of the district superintendent.

Member churches of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada that are incorporated shall be governed by the incorporating documents and corporate bylaws approved by the District Executive Committee. The incorporating documents, corporate bylaws and policies of incorporated churches shall conform to the provisions of the Local Church Constitution.

### **2. Affiliated Church**

A non-Alliance church may become affiliated with The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada upon approval of the District Executive Committee of the district within which the church is located. Affiliated churches are not member churches of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada and consequently are not represented at District Conference or General Assembly by lay delegates.

The non-Alliance church shall:

- a) Agree with the Statement of Faith of the C&MA in Canada;
- b) Call only pastoral and other ministry staff who are licensed by the C&MA;
- c) Contribute to the district employee benefit plans and Alliance Retiral Fund on behalf of the pastors and staff;
- d) Provide for the pastors and ministry staff to participate in District Conference, District Prayer Retreats and General Assembly;
- e) Support the national and global ministries of the C&MA through prayer, recruiting workers and giving to the Global Advance Fund, the Canadian Ministries Fund and (if applicable) to the District Operating Budget;
- f) Sign a memorandum of understanding with the District Executive Committee which shall expire at the end of five years, and is subject to renewal.

### **3. Amendments**

This policy may be amended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Adopted – Board of Directors, April 2012