

## **Practical Application of the Statement on Human Sexuality for Ministry and Leadership**

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

#### **Preamble**

The church is called to demonstrate God's grace by inviting everyone into loving community through the practice of hospitality. The church affirms the dignity of all people and strives to treat everyone with respect. The Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA) acknowledges that the church has historically struggled in addressing matters related to human sexuality. The church must make every effort to be a safe place of grace for all people, including those facing sexual temptations and failures, providing accountability and support in the midst of struggle.

The following is the outworking of the C&MA Statement on Human Sexuality and reflects the religious beliefs of the C&MA and its members.

#### **Article 1 - Instructions for Districts and Official Workers**

The C&MA acknowledges that as sinful humans everyone stands equally in need of a Lord and Saviour, whatever brokenness they face. However, the life of a Christian leader is to model a life of holiness, which includes humility, confession and repentance, obedience and dependence on the Holy Spirit. While all people are welcomed by Jesus and thus welcomed in C&MA churches, leadership and membership in the C&MA are reserved for those who are able to not only affirm the beliefs and practices of the C&MA, but also committed to walking in holiness.

As a result of this, persons who are, without repentance, engaging in sexual behaviour and relationships contrary to the Statement on Human Sexuality (this includes, but is not limited to pre-marital relationships, extra-marital relationships, same-sex relationships, and polyamorous relationships) or persons who are not able to abide by the Statement on Human Sexuality shall not:

- a) Be accepted as candidates for ministry
- b) Be licensed as official workers
- c) Be ordained as ministers in the C&MA
- d) Be appointed to organizational leadership in the C&MA
- e) Be issued formal membership in a Christian and Missionary Alliance Church
- f) Be in a position of leadership in local church ministries

Because of the C&MA's understanding of God's intention for marriage between one man and one woman as outlined in the Statement on Human Sexuality, no licensed worker or employee in any C&MA ministry or local church shall, under any circumstances, sanction, bless, conduct, or officially participate in a marriage ceremony, civil or religious, that does not reflect the intention of the Statement on Human Sexuality. No C&MA local church facilities or other properties belonging to any aspect of the life and work of the C&MA may be used in any way that would result in a marriage or civil union that does not reflect the intention of the Statement on Human Sexuality.

Given the inherent dignity of all persons, and the call of followers of Christ to love their neighbours, persons who are accused of hate or intolerant speech towards others because of their gender, sexuality and belief will be subject to disciplinary investigation as outlined in the Manual of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

## **Article 2 - Instructions for Local Churches**

Local churches should ensure that their local church bylaws and membership covenant align with the Practical Application of the Statement on Human Sexuality for Ministry and Leadership.

The C&MA acknowledges that as sinful humans everyone stands equally in need of a Lord and Saviour, whatever brokenness they face. However, the life of a Christian leader is to model a life of holiness, which includes humility, confession and repentance and dependence on the Holy Spirit. While all people are welcomed by Jesus and thus welcomed in C&MA churches, leadership and membership in the C&MA are reserved for those who are able to not only abide by the beliefs and practices of the C&MA, but also committed to walking in holiness.

As a result of this, persons who are, without repentance, engaging in sexual behaviour and relationships contrary to the Statement on Human Sexuality (this includes, but is not limited to pre-marital relationships, extra-marital relationships, same-sex relationships, and polyamorous relationships) or persons who are not able to abide by the Statement on Human Sexuality shall not:

- a) Be issued formal membership in a Christian and Missionary Alliance Church.
- b) Be in a position of leadership in local church ministries (leadership to include pastors, elders, people in teaching positions and other leadership positions as defined by the local church).

## **Article 3 - Amendments**

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

Adopted – General Assembly 2018