

**BYLAWS**  
**THE OSWEGO ALLIANCE CHURCH**

Revised and Approved 01-18-2018  
Effective 01-18-2018

*UNIFORM CONSTITUTION FOR ACCREDITED CHURCHES OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE. (A5)  
Each accredited church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance shall adopt and be governed by the following Constitution.*

**BYLAWS THE OSWEGO ALLIANCE CHURCH**

**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 and worldwide fellowship 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.*

The bylaws of the Oswego Alliance Church are subordinate to the *Constitution for Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches*. Articles in the bylaws relate to articles of the same number in the *Constitution*. Some articles in the *Constitution* do not have related bylaws.

The Constitutional parts of this document (text in italics blue) which are contained in the C&MA Manual, latest edition, can be changed only by the denomination at the national level. The Oswego Alliance Church bylaws (text in black) can be altered through the process described in this document.

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

*The official name under which this church is incorporated or organized is Oswego Alliance Church (shall include the words "The Christian and Missionary Alliance").*

- 1.1 For purposes of public identification, this church shall be known as The Oswego Alliance Church, of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

**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.*

**No Bylaw**

## 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.*

- 3.1 Reception of Members: All candidates for membership shall apply for membership by using the Application for Membership form. All candidates, unless directed otherwise by the Board of Elders, shall complete a membership class or equivalent class taught by one or more of the Elders before being interviewed by the committee. All candidates shall be received into the church only upon recommendation of the Board of Elders.
- 3.2 No specific current or former marital status is required for, nor automatically prohibits a person from holding a membership or position in the Oswego Alliance Church. This is supported by the Statement on Marriage-Divorce-Remarriage as it appears in the current edition of the Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.”
- 3.3 Membership Roll: The membership shall be divided into two categories as follows:
  - .01. Active Member: a member who is in good and regular standing and who, as possible, is actively attending and supporting the church.
  - .02. Associate Member: any member who is not actively attending and supporting the church. Associate Members are ineligible to vote.
- 3.4 Continuation of Membership
  - .01 An Active Member shall continue in good standing until that membership is changed or terminated at the request of the member or by action of the Board of Elders.
  - .02 The Membership Roll shall be reviewed at least yearly by the Board of Elders and the current list of Active Members shall be given to the Nominating Committee no later than July 31.
  - .03 The Board of Elders should notify, in writing, any member whose status they change at the time of such change.
  - .04 Associate Members may request the Board of Elders to reassign them to Active Member status.
  - .05 Associate Members who have not attended or supported the church for over a year should be contacted by Elders to determine if they wish to be dropped from the membership roles.
  - .06 Members who do not attend services for an extended length of time may be placed on the Associate list and shall be automatically reinstated upon their return, provided they still meet the requirements for membership.
- 3.5 Transfer of Membership
  - .01 When an individual or family, whether members or adherents, move to another community, the Senior Pastor of the church may send a letter to the Senior Pastor of the Alliance Church in the community to which they have moved.
  - .02 Letters of transfer shall be granted to members in good standing who wish to unite with other churches upon approval of the Senior Pastor.
- 3.6 Discipline and Dismissal of Members and/or those holding elected or appointed positions:
  - .01 It is to be understood that the purpose of church discipline is not only to preserve the character, the strength, the vitality and the spiritual life of the church, but foremost, to “restore him gently,” who may be overtaken in a fault. (Galatians 6:1 NIV).
  - .02 The Senior Pastor and the Elders shall constitute the Committee on Discipline. This Committee shall

make investigation on matters pertaining to disciplining members and/or those holding elected or appointed positions.

- .03 Members and/or those holding elected or appointed positions whose conduct has become a reproach or whose doctrines are not in accord with the Christian and Missionary Alliance and who, after having been dealt with according to Christian discipline (Matthew 18:15-17), remain firm in their contrary attitude or conduct shall be removed from membership and/or elected or appointed position by the Committee on Discipline.
- .04 Persons having forfeited their membership in the church may, on evidence of sincere repentance and satisfactory conduct, be restored to membership by the Committee on Discipline.

#### **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.*

- 4.1 We believe the scriptures teach that water baptism should be done and should be an act subsequent to conversion; infants and young children may be publicly dedicated to the Lord.

#### **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.*

##### **5.1 Annual Meeting**

- .01 The Governance Authority shall call for the Annual Business Meeting for the election of officers (with terms beginning in January) and adoption of the annual budget for the following calendar year in the month of November.
- .02 A meeting for the purpose of receiving ministry reports shall take place after the first of the following calendar year.

##### **5.2 Quorum**

- .01 A quorum at any Congregational Meeting shall consist of a simple majority of the active membership.
- .02 A quorum at any board or committee meeting shall consist of a simple majority of the members in each case (except for the Nominating Committee).

- 5.3 Notice of Meetings. All Congregational Meetings shall be announced at least two Sunday morning services prior to the meeting unless otherwise prescribed by the laws of the State of New York.

- 5.4 The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

- 5.5 All questions of parliamentary procedure not covered by the Constitution and these Bylaws shall be decided by Robert's Rules of Order.

#### **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.*

- 6.1 The Governance Authority for this church shall consist of two boards, which may act separately or in concert.
  - .01 The first board, the Board of Elders, has the primary role of governance.
  - .02 The second board, the Board of Ministries, has a supplementary role of governance. The Board of Elders shall determine what responsibilities and levels of authority to delegate to the Board of Ministries.
  - .03 Where these bylaws assign responsibilities to the Governance Authority, the Board of Elders has the latitude to:
    - a. dispose of an item directly,
    - b. delegate the item to the Board of Ministries for disposition, or
    - c. call for a plenary session of Board of Elders and Board of Ministries to dispose of the item.
  - .04 When the Board of Elders and Board of Ministries meets in a plenary session the members of both boards are voting members and the decisions reached in a plenary session are binding.
  - .05 The chairman of the Governance Authority may call for a plenary session. A plenary session may also be called at the written request of 50% of the Governance Authority, or a majority of the elders.
- 6.2 Composition of the Board of Elders
  - .01 The Board of Elders shall consist of the Senior Pastor and the elected elders. Other members of the pastoral staff may be invited to attend the meetings of the Board of Elders at the discretion of the Senior Pastor but shall not be voting members of the board.
  - .02 The offices of the Board of Elders shall be as follows: the Senior Pastor; representative to the Board of Ministries, which will also serve as vice chair to the Governance Authority; secretary; and membership steward.
- 6.3 Composition of the Board of Ministries
  - .01 The Board of Ministries shall consist of the following members: the Senior Pastor or, the Vice Chair of the Governance Authority, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, a Member-At-Large, and a representative from each of the following: the Elders, the Deacons, the Trustees, the Facilities Managers, and the Deaconesses.
  - .02 Husband and wife combinations on the Board of ministries shall be avoided as much as possible.
  - .03 A person cannot hold the position of Member-At-Large for more than two consecutive years. Another must hold the position before a prior Member-At-Large can be re-elected to that position.
- 6.4 Committees
  - .01 The need and existence of Standing Committees shall be determined by the Governance Authority. The Governance Authority will appoint chairpersons for standing committees.
- 6.5 The Governance Authority shall review the job descriptions as necessary of all Officers and Committee Chairpersons.
- 6.6 The draft minutes of each Board of Ministries meeting shall be posted as soon as possible.

## **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.*

- 7.1 Church Officers will consist of: the Senior Pastor; Secretary (Board of Ministries Secretary); Treasurer (also serving as Missionary Treasurer); Assistant Treasurer; and per the requirements of New York State – Trustees.

- 7.2 The duties of the officers shall be those set out in Article IX of the Constitution and, in addition, shall include those duties contained in the Ministry Description for each office as approved by the church Governance Authority.
- 7.3 All officers, with the exception of the Senior Pastor, must be active members of the church for 6 months minimum and be 21 years of age.
- 7.4 All officers shall be elected by the congregation at its Annual meeting for a term of two years beginning January 1. Exceptions are the Senior Pastor and Trustees which are elected in accordance with Article X.

## **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.*

- 8.1 A greater than 66% positive vote by the active membership present at a duly called congregational meeting shall be required before the Board of Elders calls any Pastor.
- 8.2 An Executive Pastor shall fulfill the role and duties of senior pastor as described in these bylaws. In the event of a vacancy, the Board of Elders shall designate one of the remaining pastors to fulfill this role.

## **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.*

- 9.1 Oswego Alliance Church paid staff positions, other than pastors, shall be hired by and fall under the authority of the Senior Pastor with consultation with the Governance Authority and other Pastors.

- 9.2 Only the Treasurer and two other persons, authorized by the Governance Authority, shall be authorized to sign checks. The Assistant Treasurer shall not be authorized to sign checks.
- 9.3 The Treasurer may serve as Missionary Treasurer.
- 9.4 The Treasurer shall be authorized to pay all amounts approved by the congregation in the budget plan. All other bills are subject to the approval of the Governance Authority.
- 9.5 All monies shall be counted on the premises by at least two persons and the Assistant Treasurer or their designee. The counters shall be Members of the Church at least one of whom is elected or appointed to a term position other than the Treasurer, the Pastor(s), and those persons authorized to sign checks.
- 9.6 The Assistant Treasurer shall issue receipts to the donors as soon as possible after the end of each year and no later than January 31<sup>st</sup>.

## 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 Woman. Local church Great Commission Women may be established. They shall be organized according to the Great Commission Women policies as contained in the CM Handbook.*

### 10.1 Elders

- .01 Shall be an active member of 6 months minimum prior to election.
- .02 Are elected to a 2 year term at the Annual Meeting in accordance with Article XV.
- .03 Shall determine their desired number of required Elders for the coming year and provide it to the Nominating Committee.
- .04 Shall determine the maximum number of Deacons, Deaconesses and Facility Managers.
- .05 Shall determine need for change in the maximum number of trustees, and provide the number to the nominating committee. The change in number shall be ratified at the annual meeting.
- .06 May provide Elder candidates to the Nominating Committee.
- .07 In case of a vacancy in any elected position, the Board of Elders may appoint another until the next Annual Meeting.
- .08 Shall select a Board of Ministries Representative which will also be Vice-Chairman of the Governance Authority.

### 10.2 Deacons

- .01 Shall be an active member of 6 months minimum prior to appointment.
- .02 Are appointed to a 2 year term by the Board of Elders in November to begin the following year of Ministry.
- .03 Shall determine their desired number of required Deacons for the coming year and provide it to the Board of Elders.

- .04 In case of a vacancy in any appointed Deacon, the Board of Elders may appoint another to complete the term of the vacated Deacon.
  - .05 Shall select a Head Deacon.
  - .06 Shall select a Board of Ministries Representative.
- 10.3 Deaconesses
- .01 Shall be an active member of 6 months minimum prior to appointment.
  - .02 Are appointed to a 2 year term by the Board of Elders in November to begin the following year of Ministry.
  - .03 Shall determine their desired number of required Deaconesses for the coming year and provide it to the Board of Elders.
  - .04 In case of a vacancy in any appointed Deaconess, the Board of Elders may appoint another to complete the term of the vacated Deaconess.
  - .05 Shall select a Head Deaconess.
  - .06 Shall select a Board of Ministries Representative.
- 10.4 Trustees
- .01 Shall be an active member of 6 months minimum prior to election.
  - .02 There shall be a minimum of 3 Trustees.
  - .03 One third of the Trustees are elected each year to a 3 year term as prescribed by the laws of the State of New York by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting with the term beginning in January following the Annual Meeting.
  - .04 Shall determine their desired number of required Trustees for the coming year and provide it to the Board of Elders.
  - .05 In case of a vacancy in any Trustee, the position shall remain vacant and such vacancy shall be filled by the remaining trustees until the Annual Meeting when an election will be held for the position to complete the term of the vacated Trustee beginning immediately following the Annual Meeting.
  - .06 Shall select a Head Trustee.
  - .07 Shall select a Board of Ministries Representative.
- 10.5 Great Commission Women
- .01 A Director may be appointed by the Board of Elders.
  - .02 Overall tenured term of the Director is not to exceed the requirements as specified in the CM Handbook.
  - .03 In case of a vacancy of the Director, the Board of Elders may appoint another.
  - .04 Shall be structured in accordance with C&MA Great Commission Women policies.
- 10.6 Facility Managers
- .01 Shall be an active member 6 months minimum prior to appointment.
  - .02 Are appointed to a 2 year term by the Board of Elders in November to begin the following year of Ministry.
  - .03 Shall determine their desired number of required Facility Managers for the coming year and provide it to the Board of Elders.
  - .04 In case of a vacancy in any appointed Facility Manager, the Board of Elders may appoint another to complete the term of the vacated Facility Manager.
  - .05 Shall select a Head Facility Manager.
  - .06 Shall select a Board of Ministries Representative.
- 10.7 Other Committees and Organizations
- .01 Leadership position shall be appointed by the Board of Elders.
  - .02 In case of a vacancy of Leadership, the Board of Elders may appoint another.

## **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.*

**No Bylaw**

## 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.*

### No Bylaw

## 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.*

- 13.1 A greater than 66% majority ballot vote of the active membership present at any duly authorized congregational meeting shall be necessary for the purchase, sale, major renovation, or construction of church property.
- 13.2 Audit. All financial records shall be examined annually or at more frequent intervals on order of the Governance Authority. The Governance Authority may select an outside professional agency to perform the audit or select at least three persons, none of whom is a financial officer or a church staff member, who shall be appointed by the Governance Authority at their January meeting to conduct the examination. They shall follow procedures set forth in the current edition of the Finance 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 jurisdictions in which the church is located. The auditors shall submit a report to the Governance Authority no later than March 31st of the year following the one for which they were appointed.

## 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.*

- 14.1 Nominating Committee shall consist of the Senior Pastor, two Elders, and two elected Active Members.
- 14.2 The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of candidates for each of the following:
- .01 Board of Ministries Secretary;
  - .02 Treasurer (also serves as Missions Treasurer);
  - .03 Board of Ministries Member-At-Large for the following year;
  - .04 Assistant Treasurer;
  - .05 Board of Elders;
  - .06 Trustee(s);
  - .07 Two Members-At-Large of the Nominating Committee for the following year.
- 14.3 The Senior Pastor, after consultation with the Elders, shall have authority to veto any nomination.

- 14.4 The Nominating Committee shall post the preliminary nominations five Sundays prior to the Annual Meeting. Final Nominations shall be distributed two Sundays prior to Annual Meeting.
- 14.5 Members of the congregation may submit names to the Nominating Committee up until two weeks prior to the preliminary posting and the Nominating Committee shall be responsible for determining the candidates' qualifications and willingness to serve.
- 14.6 After the preliminary nominations have been posted, active church members may submit written nominations to the Nominating Committee, which must include both their signature and the signature of the person being nominated. All such nominations shall be included in the final nominations, unless the nominee withdraws or is vetoed as described in 14.3.
- 14.7 There will be no nominations received from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

## **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.*

- 15.1 Voting at all elections shall be by ballot.
- 15.2 The Elections of Officers, Nominating Committee Members (2), and Board of Ministries Member-at-Large.
  - .01 Ballots are to be tallied and candidate with the majority of votes will be awarded the position.
  - .02 In the event there is only one candidate for a position, the ballot may be waived by a unanimous vote.
  - .03 Elections that result in a tie vote shall be decided by the Board of Elders.
- 15.3 Election of Elders
  - .01 A greater than 66% positive vote of those active members present shall be required to elect an Elder.
  - .02 The position of Elder shall not be subject to revote. Only candidates receiving the required percentage in the initial vote shall be elected.

## **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, 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 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.*

### **No Bylaw**

## **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 above. A copy of such bylaws shall be filed with the district superintendent.*

17.1 These bylaws may be amended at a duly called Congregational Meeting.

17.2 Motions to amend the bylaws shall be in writing and shall be retained as an official record of the church.

17.3 The voting shall be by ballot and the record of votes for, against, and abstentions shall be recorded on the official record.

17.4 To amend the bylaws, a motion must receive a greater than 66% positive vote of the active members present at the meeting.

17.5 Notice of a proposed amendment to these bylaws must be made when announcing the Congregational Meeting at which the amendment shall be moved.

17.6 Uniform Constitution of the C&MA aspects of these bylaws may be changed without Congregational Meeting as necessary, provided the intents of bylaws are not affected. In the event the changes affect the bylaws, they will be brought before the congregation for approval.

## **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.*

### **No Bylaw**

## **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.*

### **No Bylaw**