



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

of ~~the~~ Common Places Church

of the

CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

Lock Haven, PA

Revised and Adopted – January, ~~2018~~ 2022

Constitution from:

~~2009-2021~~- version

Manual of the Christian and Missionary Alliance

The Constitution can only be revised at the Annual Council of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. The bylaws which are enclosed, as this paragraph is, were adopted by the membership of ~~the~~ Common Places Alliance Church.

A5**UNIFORM CONSTITUTION FOR
ACCREDITED CHURCHES
OF
THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE**

Each accredited church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance shall adopt and be governed by the following Constitution.

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.¹

This church is an integral part of the district, national, and worldwide fellowship of The Christian and Missionary Alliance 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.

¹ Model Bylaws, which include three different governmental models, have been developed by Church Ministries and are available through each church's individual district (see Section E15).

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF **THE**
Common Places Church
OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

ARTICLE I
NAME

The official name under which this church is incorporated or organized is The Common Places 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.

BYLAWS

- A. Lay Delegate to General Council
When lay delegates are sent to General Council, they shall be appointed annually by the Board of Elders.
- B. Lay Delegate to District Conference
When lay delegates are sent to District Conference, they shall be appointed annually by the Board of Elders.

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.

BYLAWS

A. Committee on Membership

The Committee on Membership shall be composed of the Board of Elders.

This committee shall:

1. Determine the eligibility of all applicants for membership.
2. Give approval for members in good standing to request absentee status.
3. Remove inactive members from the membership records.
4. Review the membership roll annually or as needed indicating active and inactive members.

B. Qualifications for Membership

In addition to the requirements for membership as stated in Article III of the Constitution, applicants for membership shall be required to do the following:

1. Those who are joining on profession of faith or who are transferring their membership from a non-Alliance church will be required to attend membership classes, taught by the pastor or someone designated by the pastor.

C. The Classification of Membership

1. Active Members

The members who regularly attend and support the ministry of the Church shall be considered active members, and only such members are entitled to vote at any meeting of the Church. **An active member must be at least 16 years of age.**

2. Inactive Members

Members, other than shut-ins, who have not been in regular attendance for 6 months, have not supported the Church and have not responded to pastoral visits or visits of the Church officers, shall be committed to the Committee on Membership for placement on the inactive membership roll.

The inactive membership roll will be periodically reviewed by the Committee on Membership, and communication will be attempted to inform inactive members of their removal from membership.

3. Absentee Members

Those who are members in good standing and reside elsewhere because of work, Christian service, retirement, education, or military service and wish to have their names retained on the membership roll shall make written request to the elders requesting absentee status.

Upon approval of the Committee on Membership, they shall be considered absentee members and a communication will be attempted to inform them of the action taken.

~~4. Junior Membership~~

- ~~a. Those individuals between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years may request junior membership. The qualifications shall be the same as those outlined in the Church Constitution Article III Membership.~~
- ~~b. Those who are to be received as junior members will be required to attend a membership class prior to being received as junior members.~~
- ~~c. Junior membership shall automatically terminate at age eighteen. At that time, the individual will transition to regular membership.~~

5. Transfer of Membership

A letter of transfer shall be granted to members in good standing who desire to unite with other Christian churches.

6. Discipline

Matters of discipline that apparently cannot be resolved on an individual basis shall be referred to the elders for disposition. The elders shall apply the principles set forth in the current National Christian and Missionary Alliance manual. The manner and extent of apology and/or resolution shall be consistent with the degree of the offense.

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.

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.

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.

BYLAWS

A. Annual Membership Meetings

The annual meeting will be in the month of January. The Board of Elders shall have the authority to change the date, if necessary.

The annual meeting shall be convened by announcing said meeting at the two consecutive Sunday Morning Worship services prior to the date of this meeting.

B. Special Membership Meetings

A membership meeting may be called for a specific purpose. The date of such meeting must be announced at the two consecutive Sunday Morning Worship services prior to the date of this meeting.

No other matters shall be considered except the stated purpose of the meeting.

C. Emergency Meetings.

An emergency meeting may be called by the Elders without prior notice to the congregation.

D. Quorums

1. At any membership meeting, one-third of active membership shall constitute a quorum.
2. A quorum for either the Board of Elders or the Board of Ministries shall be a majority of the members of the respective board. At all meetings of Church committees, a majority of the committee members shall constitute a quorum.

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 lead 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 lead 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.

BYLAWS

A. Name

The governance authority (~~Board of Elders~~) of the Common Places Church of the C&MA shall be known as the Board of Elders. Their work shall be supplemented by a Board of Ministries. The Board of Elders shall determine the responsibilities to be delegated, necessary level(s) of authority, and matters of accountability.

B. Membership

1. Board of Elders. The Board of Elders shall consist of the pastors and the elected Elders. The senior pastor and other pastors shall be considered Elders. The minimum number of Elders on the Elder board shall be three.
2. Board of Ministries. The Board of Ministries shall consist of the Senior Pastor, the Elder vice chair, the recording secretary, the church Treasurer, and appointed ~~Heads of ministry positions~~ Deacons and Deaconesses. A member at large may also be elected by the congregation at the discretion of the Board of Elders. The Chairman of the Board of Elders shall also be the Chairman of the Board of Ministries. The Vice Chairman of the elders shall be vice chairperson of the Board of Ministries.

C. Tenure

All elected and appointed positions except for Elders are one-year terms. The term of office shall expire on the last day of January. The duties of new officers shall begin on the first day of February or as of their appointment, whichever is later. The chairman of the Board of Ministry shall call an informational meeting including both incoming and outgoing members for the purpose of orientation to new responsibilities.

D. Vacancies

The Board of Elders shall appoint any replacement to fill vacancies of any office occurring during the year.

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 lead pastor, shall be elected at the annual meeting of the church: lead pastor, secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and such other officers as may be designated in the church bylaws or in the state law.

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.

ARTICLE IX DUTIES OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1. Lead Pastor. The lead 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 lead 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.

BYLAW

This elected secretary shall be known as the Recording Secretary and shall keep the minutes of all Board of Ministries meetings and membership meetings.

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.

BYLAWS

A. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer shall submit to the Board of Ministries and to the congregation a quarterly statement of monies received and disbursed.

B. At their request, the treasurer shall submit to the Board of Elders an accurate financial statement at any time.

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.

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 lead 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.

BYLAWS

- A. Each elder shall be elected individually by written ballot with at least 70% affirmative vote of the members present.
- B. Qualifications for Elders
1. Evidence of Christian maturity as described in 1 Timothy 3: 1-7 and Titus 1: 5-9 as follows: blameless in marital relationships, calm in spirit, wise, well behaved, hospitable, a good teacher, doesn't abuse alcohol, gentle, not greedy, not quarrelsome, not jealous, a leader in his home, not a new believer, reputable in and outside of the church, whose children in his household are respectful.
 2. Evidence of a dedicated, spirit-filled walk with the Lord.
 3. A member in good standing of the Church.
 4. Agreement with the doctrinal beliefs and demonstration of loyalty to the policies and practices of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.
 5. Willingness to be disciplined.
- C. Responsibilities of the Elders
1. Shall be willing to serve and fulfill all assignments, promptly and fully as requested by the chairman or the Pastor.
 2. Shall participate in the activities of the Board of Elders in areas for which he is best qualified.
 3. Shall be a cooperative Board Member, fully supporting decisions agreed upon by the Board, regardless of his voice or vote.
 4. Shall be an enthusiastic supporter of the Church.
 5. Shall visit or contact each member or adherent of the Church assigned to him at least once a year.
- D. Terms for Elders
1. All elders shall be elected for a 3-year term. The terms shall be staggered so that each elder's term will expire on a different year.
 2. The senior pastor shall be chairman or, at his request, the governance authority shall elect an elder as chairman
 3. The vice chair of the Elders will be appointed by the Board of Elders for a specified period of time.

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

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.

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.

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.

BYLAWS

A. Acquisition or Sale of Property

For the purchase of personal property in excess of 3.5% of the annual budget in value, a majority vote is required. This shall be a majority of the number of active members present at the membership meeting.

B. Acquisition or Sale of Real Estate

For the purchase, sale, or lease of real estate or for the purchase, sale, lease or erection of a Church edifice, a 60% majority vote is required. This shall be a 60% majority of the number of active members and shall be by ballot.

C. Personal Gifts

Gifts of Church property, real or personal Church furnishings, or other such material donations of significant value shall be accepted only by the approval of the Board of Ministries.

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.

BYLAW

All financial records, except individual donor records and individual disbursements from the Benevolent Fund, shall be open to inspection by any member of the Church. Requests to examine records are to be made to the Board of Elders.

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.

BYLAW

The fiscal year for all departments of this Church shall be the calendar year.

ARTICLE XIV NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee shall consist of the lead 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.

BYLAW

The Nominating Committee is selected each year as follows: two shall be appointed by the church Board of Elders and two shall be elected from the church membership. The current nominating committee shall present two names for the next year's nominating committee and nominations can also come from the floor. The nominating committee shall meet three months prior to the annual meeting of the membership. The names presented by the Nominating Committee for elected positions shall be posted at least three weeks prior to 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.

BYLAWS

A. Appointments

The Board of Elders shall appoint qualified people to serve as youth workers, musicians, etc., as needed. The Board of Elders shall have the right to fill any vacancy in any department between annual meetings.

B. Nominations from the Membership

1. The person desiring to submit a name for nomination must confirm the willingness of the potential nominee to let his/her name stand for a particular position. The nominator must then inform the nominating committee of their intent in writing at least 7 days prior to the annual meeting.
2. All nominees must be approved by the nominating committee with respect to qualifications.
3. Nominations will be closed at noon 7 calendar days prior to the annual membership meeting.

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 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 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.

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.

BYLAWS

- A. A four-member bylaw committee shall be appointed by the Board of Ministries. The Senior Pastor will serve as one of the four committee members. In the absence of a Senior Pastor, the chair of the Board of Elders shall then serve as one of the four committee members. The results shall be presented at a membership meeting.
- B. The Constitution and Bylaws shall be reviewed for changes following the biennial meeting of the General Council. *The proposed changes to the Bylaws shall be posted and copies made available to the membership at least three weeks prior to the membership meeting at which the proposed changes are to be acted upon.*
- C. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of active members present at any membership meeting, prior notice having been given.

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.

ADDITIONAL BYLAWS

- A. The Senior Pastor, vice chairman of the Board of Elders or treasurer in conjunction with the recording secretary of the corporation may sign official documents for the corporation. ~~except those that must be signed by the chairman of the trustees as per state law.~~
- B. Parliamentary Authority
The rules contained in “Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised” published by Fleming H. Revell Company shall govern at all membership and Board of Ministry Meetings ~~unless otherwise stated in where they are not inconsistent with~~ the Constitution and Bylaws.

**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.