



BYLAWS

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Preamble

The *Societies Act* of British Columbia (BC), the *Local Church Constitution*, the *Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada*, and these bylaws constitute the governing documents of the church.

Definitions and Interpretation

In these bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires:

“AGM”	means the meeting of the members held annually as specified in these bylaws.
“Board”	means the Board of Elders of the church.
“bylaws”	means the bylaws of the church.
“church”	means Lake Country Alliance Church, a society incorporated under the <i>Societies Act</i> of BC, a church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.
“Constitution”	means the <i>Local Church Constitution</i> contained in the <i>Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada</i> .
“elder”	means an elected member of the church’s Board.
“ordinary resolution”	means a resolution that requires a simple majority of the votes cast at a general meeting by the members eligible to vote or at a meeting of the Board.
“Special Meeting”	is a meeting other than the AGM in which special or urgent business may be conducted.
“special resolution”	means a resolution that requires a majority of no fewer than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast at a meeting by the members eligible to vote or at a meeting of the Board. It is required to make fundamental changes to the organization and governance of the church and decisions about major issues.

1—Mission, Vision, and Values

- 1.1. The Board must ensure that a current statement of mission, vision, and values exists for the church and is communicated appropriately.

2—Membership

- 2.1. In the absence of any other structure they approve, the Board is responsible for all matters related to membership.
- 2.2. Qualifications for membership are as stipulated in the Constitution and these bylaws.
- 2.3. There are four categories of members:

- 2.3.1. Active Member

An Active Member is a member in good standing who has been officially confirmed as having met the requirements for membership outlined in the Constitution and these bylaws, and who regularly attends and actively supports the church in ways outlined in the membership application.

Active Members are eligible:

- a. to vote;
- b. to give primary leadership to church ministries; and
- c. unless otherwise restricted, to be elected to the Board.

- 2.3.2. Associate Member

An Associate Member is a former Active Member who is non-resident and/or for reasons acceptable to the Board, desires to retain membership in the church.

- 2.3.2.1. Associate Members may not vote at meetings of members, nor hold office in the church.
 - 2.3.2.2. An Associate Member may be returned to Active Member status at the discretion of the Board.

2.3.3. Inactive Member

An Inactive Member is a former Active Member who, in the opinion of the Board, has failed to remain active in the church, meaning that the member has been absent from the normal activities of the church for a period of nine (9) months or more and has not communicated an interest in remaining a member of the church.

- 2.3.3.1. An Inactive Member may not vote at meetings of members, nor hold office in the church.
- 2.3.3.2. An Inactive Member will be moved to “Member not in Good Standing” following an additional nine (9) month period with no communication from the Inactive Member.
- 2.3.3.3. An Inactive Member may be returned to Active Member status at the discretion of the Board.

2.3.4. Member not in Good Standing

All members are in good standing except:

- a. a member who is suspended from active membership at the discretion of the Board due to an accusation or allegation of serious misconduct that is the subject of an investigation by the church, the District, or a secular authority, or
 - b. a member who is under discipline¹
 - c. a member who has been an Inactive Member for a period of nine (9) months or more.
- 2.3.4.1. A Member not in Good Standing may not vote at meetings of the members, nor hold office in the church.
 - 2.3.4.2. A Member not in Good Standing may be returned to Active Member status at the discretion of the Board.

¹ As outlined in the *Discipline and Restoration Policy for Members of Local Churches of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada* and the *Policy on Discipline, Restoration and Appeal for Official Workers*.

- 2.3.4.2.1. A Member not in Good Standing who is an Official Worker may only be returned to Active Member status by the Board upon the authorization of the District Superintendent and confirmation that the discipline process is complete and the Official Worker is restored to active ministry.²
 - 2.3.4.2.2. In respect of a member suspended under section 2.3.4.a, the Board must consider whether to return the member to Active Member status at the first meeting of the Board following the completion of all relevant investigations, provided that such investigations have not resulted in a finding or charge of criminal conduct or conduct that could result in discipline.
 - 2.3.4.3. Members not in Good Standing must not be listed on published membership lists of the church.
- 2.4. To become an Active Member of the church, an individual must participate in the church's application and orientation process. In addition:
- a. applicants for membership must complete the Membership Application;
 - b. at the discretion of the Board, participate in a membership interview with a pastor and/or an elder; and
 - c. receive a majority vote of confirmation of membership from the elders at an official meeting of the Board.
- 2.5. A person ceases to be a member of the church:
- a. by delivering their resignation in writing to the secretary of the Board by mail, email, or personal delivery to the address of the Board.
 - b. upon death.
 - c. by transfer to another church.
 - d. upon having been a Member not in Good Standing under 2.3.4 c. for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months.
 - e. upon being expelled as a result of any disciplinary process.

² *Policy on Discipline, Restoration and Appeal for Official Workers, Section 2.2.*

- f. by the Board passing a special resolution which terminates membership upon the person failing to maintain the qualifications for membership or having accepted membership in another church. The person who is the subject of the special resolution for expulsion must be given an opportunity to be heard by the Board before the special resolution is put to a vote.

3—Government

- 3.1. The AGM of the members must be held within six (6) months of the end of the fiscal year on a date set by the Board.
 - 3.1.1. The proposed agenda and written reports for the AGM must be available at least seven (7) days prior to the AGM.
 - 3.1.2. The compiled or reviewed or audited annual financial statements must be presented at the AGM of the members.
 - 3.1.3. The Board must recommend an independent Chartered Professional Accountant to the members to compile or review or audit the church's financial statements for the upcoming year.
 - 3.1.4. The members must appoint an independent Chartered Professional Accountant to compile or review or audit the church's financial statements for the upcoming year.
- 3.2. Special Meetings of members to consider special or urgent business:
 - a. may be called by the Board.
 - b. must be called by the Board when requested by at least 10% of the Active Members in good standing. Such a request must include a brief written statement of purpose.
- 3.3. Notice of Meeting must be given to all members by verbal and/or print media and/or electronic media (email, church website, etc.) at least twenty-one (21) days and not more than sixty (60) days prior to any meeting of the members. Such notice must:
 - a. include the date, time, and location of the meeting;
 - b. indicate the purpose of the meeting; and

- c. if applicable, include the text of any special resolution(s) to be submitted to the meeting.
- 3.4. The quorum for a duly-called meeting of members is the Active Members present.
- 3.5. Each Active Member is entitled to one vote and voting by proxy is not allowed.
 - 3.5.1. The Chair must not cast a second vote in addition to the vote to which they may be entitled to as a member, and thus change the outcome of a vote.
- 3.6. The Board may approve and provide for electronic participation in an AGM or Special Meeting of the church's members.

Notice of the meeting must provide instructions for attendance and/or participation in the meeting. Such meetings must ensure that members have the ability to:

 - a. determine if a quorum is present,
 - b. enter into discussion and be heard by those in attendance, and
 - c. vote.
- 3.7. The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* is the definitive resource on procedures at meetings of the members unless another procedure is otherwise provided by these bylaws.

4—Board of Elders

- 4.1. The Board must consist of the Lead Pastor and at least three (3) and up to a maximum of ten (10) elected members. The number of elders must be set annually by the Board.
 - 4.1.1. If the number of elders falls below three (3) plus the Lead Pastor, the Board must appoint an eligible Active Member to serve until the next AGM.
 - 4.1.2. Unless otherwise restricted, Active Members who have attained the age of nineteen (19) are eligible to serve on the Board.

- 4.1.3. Board members must annually sign a declaration of not being ineligible as defined by the *Income Tax Act* of Canada.
- 4.1.4. Board members must declare any potential conflict of interest regarding any agenda item at the beginning of each meeting.
- 4.2. The length of term is two (2) years; however, an occasional term of one (1) year is acceptable.
 - 4.2.1. A Board member may serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms and will not be eligible for election for a period of one (1) year.
 - 4.2.2. The term of office begins at the conclusion of the AGM at which the member is elected.
- 4.3. The Board must meet at least once per quarter. Meetings may be held at places the Board sees fit and attendance may include electronic means.
- 4.4. The quorum for meetings of the Board is a majority of the serving members.
- 4.5. A motion proposed at a Board meeting need not be seconded and the Chair of a meeting may move or propose a resolution.
 - 4.5.1. The Chair must not cast a second vote in addition to the vote to which they may be entitled to as a member, and thus change the outcome of a vote.
- 4.6. The Board may pass a resolution without a meeting if both of the following requirements are met:
 - 4.7.1 A copy of the resolution is sent to all Board members.
 - 4.7.2 A majority of the Board consents to the resolution in writing or by electronic means and it is recorded in the minutes.
- 4.8 A Board member may not vote by proxy at a meeting of the Board.
- 4.9 The Board must appoint from among its members the following officers of the church: the Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one (1) person, in which case the position must be identified as Secretary/Treasurer.
 - 4.9.1 The Board Chair is an officer of the church.
 - 4.9.2 At the request of the Lead Pastor, the Board may nominate a Chair for consideration by the Lead Pastor.

- 4.9.3 If the Lead Pastor is not the Board Chair, they remain an officer of the church.
- 4.10 Any two (2) officers may sign documents on behalf of the church with the approval of the Board.
- 4.11 The Board may delegate any, but not all, of their powers to committees consisting of one (1) or more Board members as they see fit.
- 4.11.1 A committee so formed in the exercise of powers so delegated must conform to any rules imposed on it by the Board and must report every act done in exercise of those powers to the earliest meeting of the Board after the act has been done.
- 4.12 The Board must set and be the final interpreter of church policies.
- 4.13 Unless stipulated in higher precedence legislation or these bylaws, the Board must determine the requirement for a special resolution.
- 4.14 The Board must biennially review the Lead Pastor's ministry and remuneration.
- 4.15 Every member of the Board and officer of the church or other person who has taken or is about to undertake any liability on behalf of the church and their heirs, executors, and administrators, and estate and effects, respectively, must from time to time and at all times, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the church or applicable insurance from and against:
- a. all costs, charges, and expenses whatsoever which the Board member, an officer, or other person sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit, or proceeding which is brought, commenced, or prosecuted against them in respect of any act, deed, matter, or thing whatsoever made, done, or permitted by them in or about the execution of the duties of their office or in respect of any such liability.
 - b. all other costs, charges, or expenses which are sustained or incur in or about in relation to the affair thereof, except the costs, charges, or expenses occasioned by willful neglect or default.
- 4.16 A Board member may be removed from office by special resolution of the Board if the member:
- a. is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings without sufficient reason.
 - b. becomes ineligible under the *Income Tax Act* of Canada,

- c. fails in their responsibilities as stipulated in the Constitution.
 - d. becomes a Member not in Good Standing.
- 4.16.1 If a Board member is removed from office under 4.16, an Active Member may be appointed, by ordinary resolution of the Board, to serve as a member until the next AGM.
- 4.17 Persons who are not Board members may be present at a Board meeting or portion thereof at the invitation of the Board.
- 4.18 The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* is the definitive resource on procedures at meetings of the Board unless another procedure is otherwise provided by these bylaws.

5—Finances

- 5.1. The Treasurer and those appointed by the Board are the signing officers for the church bank accounts. The Treasurer must be one of the signing officers of all church-related accounts.
- 5.2. The fiscal year of the church is from January 1st to December 31st.
- 5.3. The church must not incur debt, with the exception of church credit card debt and capital leases not exceeding \$30,000 per item, without the approval of the District Executive Committee.
- 5.4. The church may invest its funds only in an investment in which a prudent investor might invest.
- 5.5. Any non-budgeted proposed capital expenditure exceeding 10% of the annual budget must be approved by special resolution at a duly called meeting of the members.
- 5.6. Real property may be acquired, disposed of, improved, or encumbered by order of the Board, subject to the approval of the members by special resolution and to approval by the District Executive Committee.

- 5.7. In a year that the church's annual revenues do not exceed \$250,000, by special resolution the members may choose to have that year's financial statements compiled by an independent Chartered Professional Accountant. The compiled financial statements must be prepared in accordance with the *Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations*. To remain in effect until such time as annual revenue exceeds \$250,000 or is revoked by a special resolution of the members.

If at any time the church's annual revenue exceeds \$250,000 or the members' special resolution is revoked, the financial statements must be reviewed or audited by an independent Chartered Professional Accountant. The reviewed or audited financial statements must be prepared in accordance with the *Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations*.

- 5.8. The Board must establish a Finance Committee to provide oversight of the financial reporting process. The committee must:
- a. be appointed by the Board and report to the Board.
 - b. include the Treasurer as Chair.
 - c. consist of a minimum of four (4) members total and include two (2) Board members (unless impractical).
 - d. be composed of members that are at arms-length from each other—free of any relationship that could interfere with their independent judgment.
 - e. meet at least annually.
 - f. review the annual financial statements and the findings letter.
 - g. if necessary, meet in camera with the independent Chartered Professional Accountant who reported on the annual financial statements.
 - h. report its findings and recommendations to the Board prior to the first AGM following the end of the fiscal year.
 - i. review other matters assigned by the Board such as, but not limited to, annual budgets, larger projects and purchases, financial policies, and adequacy of insurance.

6—Church Ministries

- 6.1. The Board must ensure that there is an effective organizational structure for the church and its ministries.
- 6.2. The Board must ensure that policies and procedures are established for the affirmation, appointment, and potential removal of leaders in all church ministries.
- 6.3. Each ministry leader or committee must function with a ministry description that describes both responsibilities and accountability. The group or individual that appoints the person or committee must be responsible to ensure the ministry description is in place.

7—Elections

Nominating Committee

- 7.1. The Nominating Committee must consist of the Lead Pastor, a minimum of two (2) Board members appointed by the Board, and an equal number of Active Members, who are non-Board members, elected at the AGM or another duly called meeting of the members.
 - 7.1.1. The Nominating Committee must serve until the next AGM.
 - 7.1.2. The Board must appoint replacements for any vacancy that should occur in the Nominating Committee membership during the term of office.
- 7.2. The Board must annually inform the Nominating Committee of:
 - a. the number of elders desired and the length of each term, ensuring a continuity of leadership.
 - b. the number of eligible members who are not Board members to be elected to the Nominating Committee.
 - c. the positions and number of nominees for any other office that are established by the bylaws or the Board.

- 7.3. The Nominating Committee must place in nomination, and report to the members, the nominees required for each position as specified by the bylaws or the Board.
 - 7.3.1. If the Nominating Committee wishes to consider one of its members for nomination, that person must withdraw from the Nominating Committee meeting while the decision is being made regarding the nomination.
- 7.4. The Nominating Committee must establish its process for considering potential nominees.
 - 7.4.1. The proposed nominees must consent to being nominated before the Nominating Committee must place them in nomination.
- 7.5. The Nominating Committee must post its report via print and/or electronic media at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the date set for the AGM. Such a report must include the biographical information of each candidate.

Nominations by Members

- 7.6. Additional nominations may be made by any three (3) Active Members by submitting the name in writing on the approved nomination form to the Lead Pastor for posting at least fourteen (14) days prior to the AGM. In the absence of a Lead Pastor, nominations must be filed with the Board Chair or Secretary.
 - 7.6.1. The proposed nominee must consent to being nominated before a nomination form is submitted to the Lead Pastor.
 - 7.6.2. Such nominations must be included on the ballot without being vetted by the Nominating Committee.

8—General

- 8.1. No offering for outside agencies will be facilitated without the approval of the Board.
- 8.2. Members may inspect the records of the church with the exception of the proceedings (minutes) of the Board and individual donor records other than the member's own.
 - 8.2.1. Management of records will be in accordance with the *Societies Act* (BC) as far as applicable and any other applicable legislation.

- 8.3. Should the church cease to exist as a corporate body, or cease to be subject to the *Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada*, which includes the *Statement of Faith* of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, all of its real property, appurtenances, and effects then owned or held by it will inure to the benefit of, and become the property of, the Christian and Missionary Alliance – Canadian Pacific District, provided that the Christian and Missionary Alliance – Canadian Pacific District is a qualified donee as defined by the *Income Tax Act* of Canada. In the event that the Christian and Missionary Alliance – Canadian Pacific District is not a qualified donee, the property of the church will be transferred to The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, provided that it is a qualified donee for the purpose of the *Income Tax Act* of Canada.

9—Amendments

- 9.1. Bylaw amendments may be proposed by the Board and submitted to the District Superintendent for approval by the District Executive Committee.
- 9.2. Amendments are valid only after being approved by the District Executive Committee and adopted by special resolution of the Active Members present at a duly called meeting for such purpose.

Record of Amendments

14 June 1984 – Initial adoption

24 July 2019

8 March 2026