

Washington Alliance Church Bylaws

Revised
November, 2007

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF
THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE CHURCH
OF WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA, INC.**

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, which are as follows:

1. Set out a general 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. And finally, 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 legislative 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 of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and is united with it 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.

ARTICLE I – NAME

The official name under which this church is incorporated or organized is The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church of Washington, PA, Incorporated.

BYLAWS CONCERNING ARTICLE I – NAME

This church shall bear the name of The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church of Washington, PA, Incorporated. For purposes of advertising and brevity, it may be unofficially known as The Washington Alliance Church (AKA).

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 under which 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 XV hereof relating to the reversion of property of accredited churches.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Qualifications for membership shall consist of the following:

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 principles and objectives of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and cooperation with The Christian and Missionary Alliance by systematic support of its work;
5. And finally, such other qualifications for membership as may be stated in the bylaws.

BYLAWS CONCERNING ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- 1. Any person who satisfies the qualifications for membership may make application for membership to the Senior Pastor.**
- 2. All new believers shall be readily incorporated into a prescribed course of Biblical instruction (group or individual) that shall prepare them for church membership.**
- 3. Upon due examination and approval of the candidate by the Membership Committee consisting of the senior pastor and the elders, the candidate shall be received into membership. Those bringing letters of recommendation from other churches shall be considered for membership in the aforementioned manner. The pastor and elders shall receive all members into fellowship with the church after satisfying the above qualifications and shall present them at a scheduled public service.**
- 4. Membership is divided into the following three categories: active, inactive, and honorary. Only active members may vote or hold any office that requires church election or approval of the governance authority.**

4a.) Active Members-Any member who continues to meet the qualifications for membership and regularly attends and supports the ministries of the church will be an active member in good standing. Shut-in members who are unable to attend but support the ministries of the church will remain on active-membership status.

4b.) Inactive Members-Any member able to attend but ceasing to be active in this church for a period of one (1) year and having been duly visited, encouraged, and admonished by the elders shall be notified in writing that his or her name is being placed on the inactive membership list and is under consideration for removal from the role within a period of one (1) year.

4c.) Honorary Members-A person in Christian service (e.g., a missionary or denominational employee) shall be granted honorary member status and shall so remain in that role as long as he or she is in active Christian service.

5. We believe that baptism by immersion is a Biblical mandate and that all candidates for membership, if not already baptized, should be baptized as soon as possible.

6. Members in good and regular standing may, upon request, be granted letters of recommendation to other bodies of believers. These letters shall be signed by the pastor.

7. When a member ceases to believe and defend the doctrines of the Bible as herein set forth or when his moral conduct shall be such as is unbecoming of a Christian, he shall be disciplined according to the Scriptures (Matthew 18:15-17, I Corinthians 5:12-13, II Corinthians 13:1, II Thessalonians 3:6-15, I Timothy 5:20, and Galatians 6:1-2). Upon recommendation of the Membership Committee, members may be asked to withdraw or be suspended after the above discipline is carried out.

8. Church discipline is always redemptive, not punitive. It shall be our desire to restore such a one to active fellowship. Therefore, the elders will (or shall?) outline the steps necessary for such a one to return to active and good standing.

9. The membership list shall be kept up-to-date and published each year at the annual meeting of the congregation.

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.

BYLAWS CONCERNING ARTICLE IV – ORDINANCES

- 1. The Lord's Supper will normally be observed once a month.**
- 2. All new believers shall be readily incorporated into a prescribed course of Biblical instruction (group or individual) that shall prepare them for baptism.**
- 3. Since we believe the Scriptures teach that water baptism should be by immersion and should be an act subsequent to conversion, infants may be publicly dedicated to the Lord, but not baptized.**

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 departments, including audited reports of the treasurers, and shall elect church officers, other members of the governance authority as specified in the local church bylaws, elders, deacons, and, where required, trustees. 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 CONCERNING ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT

- 1. The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held during the month of November. The date shall be announced at least three Sundays prior to the meeting. The first reading of the report of the nominating committee shall be posted at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting. Each officer and department head shall prepare a written report for the annual meeting. An adjourned meeting for the purpose of receiving and approving reports and dealing with any recommendations shall be held at an appropriately announced time and date after the first of the following calendar year.**
- 2. The fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31. Officers take office on January 1.**
- 3. Special business meetings may be called at any time by the pastor or by the governance authority in the event that the pastor's office is vacant, he is out of the area beyond recall, is incapacitated, or refuses to call such a meeting. A special meeting may also be called by a petition of at least 10 percent of the active membership by written notice to the governance authority stating fully the nature of the business to be discussed. All congregational meetings shall be announced at least two (2) weeks before the date for which they are scheduled.**

4. A quorum for any congregational meeting shall consist of the members present, provided the meeting has been properly called and announced pursuant to Article V, Sections 1 and 3 of the bylaws.

5. All resolutions proposing additions to and/or revisions of the bylaws shall be referred to the governance authority for consideration by the Congregation at the next annual meeting or a properly called special meeting.

ARTICLE VI - LOCAL CHURCH 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 definition of elder authority, 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.

BYLAWS CONCERNING ARTICLE VI - LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNANCE AUTHORITY

1. NAME. The governance authority of the Washington Alliance Church 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 levels of authority, and matters of accountability.

2. COMPOSITION.

a. Board of Elders. The board of elders shall consist of the senior pastor and a representative number of elders in keeping with the current ministry needs of the congregation. The incumbent board of elders will be empowered to recommend adjustments in that number for approval by the membership at the annual congregational

meeting. The senior pastor shall be the chairman, or, at his request, the governance authority shall elect an elder as chairman.

b. **Board of Ministries.** The board of ministries shall consist of the senior pastor, the board of elders, secretary, treasurer, the (lead) trustee, and the (lead) deacon. The senior pastor shall be chairman, or, at his request, the governance authority shall elect an elder as chairman.

3. **QUALIFICATIONS.** The qualifications for elders are set out in I Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9. Members of the board of ministries are expected to maintain a lifestyle in keeping with the spirit and intent of these same Biblical references. Furthermore, each member of the board of ministries must be an active member of this church.

4. **TERM OF OFFICE.** Except for the pastor, the tenure of each office shall be as follows: elders shall be elected to a two-year term; the lead elder and elders shall serve a maximum tenure of two (2) consecutive terms; and the outgoing lead elder and elders shall not be eligible for re-election to that board for one year.

Recording secretary, treasurer and assistant treasurer shall be elected to a two (2)-year term with a tenure of two (2) consecutive terms.

The board of elders shall have the privilege of appointing to the board of ministries additional persons as needed in order to fulfill the adopted vision of The Washington Alliance Church. These additional members shall serve a term of one (1) year or as specified by the board of elders.

Deacons shall be appointed to a one (1)-year term with no tenure. The lead deacon shall be elected to a one (1)-year term with no tenure by the deacons.

Trustees shall be elected to a two (2)-year term with no tenure. The lead trustee shall be elected by the trustees to a one (1)-year term with no tenure.

4. **MONTHLY MEETINGS.** Both boards shall normally meet on a monthly basis on a regularly scheduled time and day. Special meetings may be called by the pastor (chairman) or vice chairman.

5. **VACANCIES.** In case of a vacancy in any office, the governance authority shall have the power to appoint a member to serve until the next annual congregational meeting.

6. **QUORUM.** A quorum for the legal conduct of business by both boards shall be two-thirds of the respective board members.

7. **ACCESSIBILITY.** Any member of the congregation may attend a monthly meeting of either board as an observer without the right to participate unless there is a specific issue to be raised. If the observer wishes to present a specific subject or discuss a given issue, it must be done in an orderly manner by being entered onto the agenda prior to

the meeting. For reasons of confidentiality, observers may be asked to excuse themselves for portions of the meeting.

- 8. REPORTING. The governance authority shall authorize the posting of the financial report of the church and significant actions taken by either board on a monthly basis.**
- 9. NEPOTISM. No two members of the same immediate family may serve on either board concurrently. Immediate family shall mean of the same household.**
- 10. The governance authority may not incur an expenditure exceeding the average monthly general fund receipts without congregational approval.**

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, missionary treasurer, and such other officers as may be designated in the church bylaws or in the state law.

The offices of treasurer and missionary treasurer may be filled by the same person.

BYLAWS CONCERNING ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

A missionary treasurer will not be an elected office. The duties and responsibilities of the missionary treasurer shall be assigned to the finance team as indicated in the bylaws concerning Article IX – Duties of Church Officers.

ARTICLE VII – 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.

BYLAWS CONCERNING ARTICLE VIII – PASTOR

- 1. All associate and assistant pastors shall be called by the governance authority only after the recommendation of the senior pastor.**
- 2. Upon the appointment of an associate pastor, the associate pastor and his wife become members of this church.**
- 3. The senior pastor, with the approval of the governance authority, may request the resignation of any associate pastor.**

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 except monies given in freewill offerings toward the pastor's support and those offerings referred to in Article X, Section 2, and missionary monies when there is a missionary treasurer. The treasurer 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, with another person or persons appointed by the governance authority, shall be responsible to count all monies except freewill offerings given toward the support of a pastor, and keep a separate record of all receipts. The assistant treasurer may be empowered to issue receipts to the donors.

BY-LAWS CONCERNING ARTICLE IX – CHURCH OFFICERS

- 1. The Finance Team shall consist of the treasurer, assistant treasurer, and at least two (2) associate treasurers which will be appointed by the governance authority. The number of**

associate treasurers may be adjusted annually as necessary consistent with the workload and needs of the finance team.

2. It shall be the consistent policy of the church that at least two members of the Finance Team will be present to count and record receipts from all offerings or special collections.

3. The assistant treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all individual contributions and shall issue receipts to donors in accordance with existing tax laws.

4. The governance authority shall approve written position descriptions which detail the specific duties of each office cited in this article.

ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. Elders. The elders shall be male members of this church and shall be elected as Specified in the church bylaws. With authority from Christ the Chief Shepherd and confirmed by the church membership, the pastor and the other elders are the highest level of servant leadership in the local church. As under-shepherds, elders shall serve with the senior pastor to oversee the local church and its ministries 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.

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. Missions Committee. A Missions Committee shall be appointed by the governance authority as specified in the local church bylaws. The purpose of the Missions Committee is to assist the pastor in administering the year-round missions program, planning and promoting the annual Missions Conference, recruiting candidates, and promoting the financial and prayer support of the worldwide ministry of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Section 6. Sunday School/Bible Teaching. Each church shall have a Sunday school or a comparable discipling ministry. The mission 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.

Section 7. Discipling Ministries Council. A Discipling Ministries Council shall be appointed as specified in the local church bylaws. The Council shall oversee the discipling ministries for children, youth, and adults.

Section 8. Alliance Women in Missions and Prayer. Local-church Alliance Women may be established. They shall be organized according to the Alliance Women 's Local Constitution as contained in the *Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance*. The mission of Alliance Women is to support and pray for Alliance missionaries and their ministries.

Section 9. Alliance Men. Local-church Alliance Men may be established. They shall be organized according to the Alliance Men 's Local Constitution as contained in the *Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance*. The mission of Alliance Men is to bring men to Christ and engage in ministries that are consistent with the objectives of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

BY-LAWS CONCERNING ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION 1 – ELDERS

- 1. The senior pastor shall be chairman of the board of elders and shall serve as coach to the elders.**
2. There shall be a vice chairman of the elder board who will be elected by and from that board. The vice chairman shall serve as lead elder.
- 3. The elder board shall select, appoint, and coach the deacons.**
- 4. The board or elders may confer the title of Elder Emeritus to an elder who may be unable to perform the duties of an active elder. He shall be eligible to perform all duties of an active elder except that he shall not be entitled to a vote. He will keep this status for life unless he resigns or is removed for cause.**

SECTION 2 – DEACONS

- 1. The board of deacons shall consist of a representative number of deacons in keeping with the current ministry needs of the congregation.**
- 2. The qualifications for deacon shall be in accordance with I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3-4.**

- 3. Potential deacons shall be recommended to the board of elders before being contacted by the representing elder. Upon affirmation of the board of elders, the potential deacon may be asked to serve and if in agreement may begin the appropriate term of office.**
- 4. They shall choose from among themselves a lead deacon at their first regularly scheduled meeting following the annual congregational meeting. The incumbent board of elders shall be empowered to recommend adjustments in that number for approval by the membership at the annual congregational meeting.**
- 5. Deacons shall convene monthly at a designated time and place.**

SECTION 3- DEACONESSES

- 1. The head deaconess shall be appointed by the governance authority based on a recommendation by the senior pastor.**
- 2. The remaining deaconesses shall be appointed by the governance authority based on recommendations by the head deaconess and senior pastor.**
- 3. The qualifications for deaconesses are as follows: they shall be sober-minded women of spiritual depth that befits those whose role is, in great part, ministering to those of the larger church body with physical and/or spiritual needs and providing for arrangements for the hospitality outreach activities of the church.**

SECTION 4 – TRUSTEES

- 1. The trustees shall be elected according to the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.**
- 2. The board of trustees shall consist of a representative number of trustees in keeping with the current ministry needs of the congregation. The incumbent board of elders will be empowered to recommend adjustments in that number for approval by the membership at the annual congregational meeting.**
- 3. They shall choose from among themselves a lead trustee at their first regularly scheduled meeting following the annual congregational meeting.**
- 4. The trustees shall be caretakers of the church property.**
- 5. Trustees shall convene monthly at a designated time and place.**

SECTION 5 – SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 1. The Sunday School superintendent shall be elected by the church membership.**
- 2. The Sunday School superintendent shall supervise the work of the Sunday School.**

3. The teachers and assistant teachers shall be nominated by the Sunday School nominating committee and elected by the governance authority. If there is a Committee on Christian Education, it will serve as the nominating committee.

4. It is desirable that all Sunday School teachers be members of the local church, but when they are not, they must be in full harmony with the doctrines and principles of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. Teachers shall also give assent to the Core Values document of the church.

5. All Sunday School monies shall be handled in accordance with the policy delineated in Article 9, Duties of Church Officers.

Section 6.

All adults working with students under 18 years of age at The Washington Alliance Church shall obtain and hold current proof of the Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance.

OTHER TEAMS NOT PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED

Other teams may be established by the governance authority when relevant. Such teams shall be under the direction of and report to the board of ministries. Chairpersons shall be appointed by the governance authority for all standing committees.

ARTICLE XI – MISSIONS CONFERENCE

A missions conference shall be held annually for the promotion and support of the worldwide work of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

ARTICLE XII – 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 of 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 the current ones 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.

ARTICLE XIII – NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee shall consist of the senior pastor, two elected by, but not necessarily from, the governance authority, and two elected by the membership at least one month prior to the annual meeting. Members of the Nominating Committee shall be members of this church and shall be elected by ballot at a regular or special meeting of the governance authority or membership meeting, respectively. The governance authority and the membership shall elect by ballot from among at least four nominees.

ARTICLE XIV – 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 from the membership. 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.

BY-LAWS CONCERNING ARTICLE XIV – ELECTIONS

All nominees shall meet the qualifications for the position and shall give consent to their nomination and their willingness to fulfill all of the duties and responsibilities of the position.

The following positions shall be elected by the church membership: elders, trustees, treasurer, and recording secretary.

Those elected to the positions of recording secretary, treasurer and assistant treasurer shall be elected to a two (2)- year term with a tenure of two consecutive terms.

There shall be a vice chairman of the elder board who will be elected by and from that board. The vice chairman shall serve as lead elder.

The board of elders shall appoint deacons.

The board of deacons shall elect the lead deacon. The board of trustees shall elect the lead trustee. The senior pastor shall be called by the governance authority.

ARTICLE XV – 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 may not be challenged by any party in the absence of fraud, collusion, or arbitrariness.

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 active, attending members 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) the Division of National Church Ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

ARTICLE XVI – BYLAWS

Church bylaws not in conflict with the provisions of the ByLaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance 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 CONCERNING ARTICLE XVI – BYLAWS

- 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members attending an annual meeting or special business meeting of the church.**
- 2. These bylaws, when adopted, properly supercede any previous bylaws or legislation other than the constitution of the church.**
- 3. Additions to and/or revisions of the church bylaws may be made by written recommendation to the Governance Authority, which, if approved, shall be made available in written form to the members of the congregation at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting or a special meeting, at which they will be read and considered. A two-thirds vote of those present (who are eligible to vote on general matters) will be required for adoption.**

ARTICLE XVII – AMMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended only by the General Council of The Christian and Missionary Alliance by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

ARTICLE XVIII – 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 National Church Ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance so as to conform to such laws.