

UNIFORM CONSTITUTION FOR  
ACCREDITED CHURCHES  
OF  
THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

**and**  
**Bylaws of First Alliance Church**  
**(Adopted at Congregational Meeting - October 26, 2003)**  
**(Revised at Congregational Meeting – January 20, 2008)**  
**(Revised at Congregational Meeting – January 27, 2013)**  
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Constitution in block print **and Bylaws in bold print**

**All previous Bylaws are hereby rescinded and  
these Bylaws shall supersede all former Bylaws.**

**New and updated sections appear in red.**

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.

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.

**For further clarification of the church's mission as it relates to its identity as a faith community, please see Appendix A: "Policy Statement Regarding the Faith Community and Mission of the Christian and Missionary Alliance and First Alliance Church."**

**Comment [O1]:** This policy statement shields us from certain legal action. It was prepared by our district office and approved in March of this year by our board and elders. The district recommends we include it in some way in our bylaws.

## **ARTICLE I NAME**

The official name under which this church is incorporated or organized is First Alliance Church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Lexington, North Carolina.

## **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.

## **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1. Qualifications.**

1. Confession of faith in Jesus Christ and evidence of regeneration.
2. Belief in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; in the verbal inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as originally given; in the vicarious atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the eternal salvation of all who believe in Him and the eternal punishment of all who reject Him.
3. Acceptance of the doctrines of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King.
4. Full sympathy with the mission and core values of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and cooperation by systematic support of its work.

5. Such other qualifications for membership as may be stated in the bylaws.

**Section 2. Removal.** Persons may be removed from membership under one or more of the following circumstances:

1. Submission of a written letter of resignation to the elders of the church.
2. Failure to meet the qualifications of membership as stated above.
3. Disciplinary action taken under the Uniform Policy for Discipline, Restoration and Appeal of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

An appeal of decisions made to remove a person from membership for reasons of qualification or a disciplinary action may be submitted to the district superintendent within 30 days of the action.

**1. The membership of this church, whether Active or Associate, is for to those who have experienced the grace of God in salvation, and who shall give public testimony of such; and who shall subscribe to the Statement of Faith of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.**

**2. Any judgment concerning those qualified for membership shall be left to the Elders of the Church who also constitute the Committee on Membership.**

**3. The First Alliance Church will have an:**

- **Active Membership Roll with full rights and voting privilege**
- **Associate Membership Roll for those who wish to retain membership with their church home and to participate, without voting privileges, in the life of First Alliance Church**
- **Inactive Roll with no voting rights for those who have been determined by the elders as no longer actively involved.**

**The Board of Elders will meet annually for the purpose of updating the Active Membership Roll. At that time, it will be determined what members should be transferred to the Inactive Roll or removed from membership. The following guidelines will be used to determine when a member has become inactive:**

**A. Any member who has not attended services, participated in the church or communicated with the church for a period of six months, will be contacted by the pastor or another elder to determine why this is the case. The member's status will then be considered by the Committee.**

**B.** Any member who has moved from our community and has not requested transfer of membership, will be considered for Inactive status after six months.

**C.** Any church member regularly attending another church to the exclusion of this church will be considered for Inactive status after six months' absence.

**D.** Members will be notified by letter of their pending transfer to the Inactive Roll. If no response is received within thirty days, member will be placed on Inactive Roll without voting privileges.

~~**E.** No person may be removed from the Inactive Roll unless they personally request the church leadership to remove their name, they are deceased, or there is moral or theological problem requiring church discipline.~~

~~**F.** A member may be removed from the Active, Associate or Inactive Rolls when there is a moral or theological problem. This is for the purpose of church discipline with a goal toward eventual restoration. The elders constitute the Committee on Church Discipline for matters of this nature. If, after a sufficient period of time, there is genuine repentance and restoration, this person may come before the elders for reinstatement as a member in good standing. Scriptural guidelines for this are found in Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1,2,7; I Corinthians 5; II Corinthians 2:1-11.~~

**G.E.** A person may be transferred from the Inactive Roll back to the Active Roll or Associate Roll when they are regularly attending the church services and church activities again. This person must meet with the pastor and a group of the elders prior to officially becoming an active member.

**H.F.** The judgment of the elders will be considered final in every case and will be made a matter of record at the Annual Meeting.

**4.** All members of the church will be furnished a copy of the Church Constitution and Bylaws and a Statement of Faith before being accepted into the membership of the church. At the time of their being received into the church, they will state their agreement with these documents.

**5A. Membership Requirements for Offices, Positions, and Committee Membership**  
Full Membership is required for the following:

- All elected offices
- Bylaws, Nominating, Building, and Personnel Committee membership
- Leaders of all formally recognized teams and committees
- Voting Rights

**5B. Full or Associate Membership is required for the following exceptions granted at the sole discretion of the Elders:**

- Regular Sunday School teachers, small group leaders and youth sponsors
- Kids Clubs or VBS leaders

**Comment [02]:** These sections are effectively replaced by Section 2 ("Removal") in the updated Constitution.

**Comment [03]:** It is believed that a subset of the elder board is sufficient.

- **Children’s Church teachers**
- **Leadership of Drama, Mime, Quizzing, and Children’s Choir ministries**
- Official Representation of the church in visitation ministries**

#### **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.

**1. The Annual Meeting of the Church shall be held during the month of January. The Annual Meeting shall receive written reports from the following people and organizations: Pastor, Associate or Assistant Pastor(s), Music/Worship Director, Treasurer, Budget Committee, Deacons, Deaconesses, Elders, Missions Treasurer, Director of Adult Discipleship, Director of Youth Discipleship, Director of Children’s Discipleship, Alliance Men, Alliance Women, and Grounds & Maintenance. Financial statements will be included in these reports as applicable. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be submitted to the congregation at least one month prior to the Annual Meeting. All elected shall will begin their term of office on February 01. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given one month, but no sooner than fifty days, prior to the time of the meeting by an announcement during a Sunday morning worship service; by a written notice publicly posted; and by inclusion in the bulletin and/or newsletter.**

2. Special congregational meetings may be called by the Governing Board by notifying the membership at least two weeks in advance by a written notice publicly posted and by inclusion in the bulletin and/or newsletter.

3. The report of the Bylaws Committee shall be submitted at least one month prior to any meeting at which a Bylaws change would be considered. The report will be publicly posted.

4. Those members present and voting will constitute a quorum.

5. Unless otherwise indicated in the Constitution and Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order shall be the standard of proper order for all business meetings and assembly proceedings.

## ARTICLE VI GOVERNANCE AUTHORITY

**Section 1. General.** Each local church shall structure its governance authority in accordance with the governing documents of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, the responsibilities of elders as defined in Article X, Section 1, the bylaws of the district, and the laws of the state in which the church is located. The members of the governance authority shall satisfy the scriptural standards for church leadership and shall be members of this church.

The senior pastor shall be chairman or, at his request, the governance authority shall elect an elder as chairman. An elder also shall be elected as vice chairman. Meetings shall be held for prayer and business, and abbreviated minutes shall be reported to the church as the church may decide. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or by written request of one-half of the governance authority membership. All officers, committees, and organizations except the Nominating Committee are amenable to the collective oversight of the elders.

**Section 2. Removal.** In consultation with the district superintendent and the senior pastor, any officer or auxiliary official, except licensed pastoral staff, of this church, whether elected at the church annual meeting or appointed by the governance authority, or any individual member of the governance authority, may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the governance authority and the approval of the district superintendent if, in the judgment of the governance authority, the best interests of this church will be served thereby.

**1. The Local Church Governance Authority shall be named the Governing Board. It shall be made up of the following members:**

**Pastor**

**Associate or Assistant Pastor(s) - non-voting**

**Eight Ten other members**

**At least two of the Governing Board Members shall be elders (not including pastoral staff). If less than two elders are elected, the elders will appoint additional Governing Board members from their number to meet this requirement. On staffing issues, all the elders will join the Governing Board as voting members. At the discretion of those elders who are regular Governing Board members, any**

**Comment [O4]:** Board members occasionally being absent from meetings, the Pastor has requested a larger group so that decisions are always made by at least 6 (out of 10).

other issue may be referred to the elders. The elders may then act upon the issue or refer it back to the Governing Board.

When nominating Governing Board members, the Nominating Committee will make every effort to ensure that the following areas of ministry are represented:

Adult Discipleship	Worship/Music
Youth Discipleship	Grounds and Maintenance
Children's Discipleship	

**2. Quorum. Six (6) board members, not including pastor staff, shall constitute a quorum.**

**Comment [05]:** See the previous comment.

**3. Financial Commitments. Although the Governance Authority requires a degree of latitude in seeking to manage expenses according to the annual budget, it will seek congregational approval under certain circumstances that involve a structural change to the church's financial plan or a significant overrun of the approved budget. These circumstances include but are not necessarily limited to...**

**Comment [06]:** This section results from the congregations concerns, expressed in the 2015 Annual Meeting and referred to the Bylaws Committee.

- creating a new staff position
- initiating a new ministry with major budgetary impact
- taking on sizeable or long-term financial commitments that may impact missions giving

## ARTICLE VII OFFICERS

The officers shall be members of this church and shall satisfy the scriptural standards for church leadership. They shall consist of the following who, with the exception of the senior pastor, shall be elected at the annual meeting of the church: senior pastor, secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and such other officers as may be designated in the church bylaws or in the state law.

1. The following officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting of the church:

Elders  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Assistant Treasurer  
Missionary Treasurer  
~~Grounds & Maintenance Chairman~~  
Deacons(5) (minimum of 3)  
Deaconesses(minimum of 9)  
Bylaws Committee(4)  
Nominating Committee(2)  
Governing Board Members(8) (10)  
~~Alliance Men's President~~

**Comment [07]:** We judged it better that this person not be elected each year, but that he or she be appointed, and that this need not be at the beginning of the year.

**Comment [08]:** The deacons current job can be done by three people. This does NOT mean we will only have three. It does free us to have fewer than five.

**Comment [09]:** See the earlier comment.

**Alliance Women's President**

**Comment [O10]:** These officers have, for several years, been selected by the group itself at the request of the Nominating Committee. This change just saves us time and makes it official.

**2. Terms of Office.** All officers will be elected to one-year terms, with the exception of Governing Board members, who will be elected to two-year terms. Governing Board members will be limited to two consecutive two-year terms, after which they will be eligible for re-election after a one year absence.

**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. Senior Pastor.** The senior pastor shall have oversight of this church. He shall be chairman of the governance authority except as he may choose to proceed according to the provisions in Article VI. He shall preside at all regular or special meetings of the church membership. He is a member ex officio of all church committees and organizations. When the membership has no pastor, the chairman or vice chairman of the governance authority shall have oversight of the church in conjunction with the district superintendent. The senior pastor shall be the president of this church where such office is required by law.

**Section 2. Secretary.** The secretary shall keep the minutes of membership meetings and conduct the correspondence of this church as directed by the governance authority. The secretary shall attend and keep minutes of other meetings as specified in the local church bylaws.



**Section 3. Treasurer.** The treasurer shall receive all monies of this church and shall be responsible for the payment of all bills on the order of the governance authority as specified by the local church bylaws, keeping proper book records of all transactions, and filing canceled vouchers and receipts for payments made. The governance authority shall determine where funds of this church shall be kept. No offerings shall be solicited from the membership except upon approval of the governance authority.

**Section 4. Missionary Treasurer.** When required by local church bylaws, the missionary treasurer shall account for all missionary monies and oversee the forwarding of the same to the treasurer of The Christian and Missionary Alliance on or before the tenth of the following month.

**Section 5. Assistant Treasurer.** The assistant treasurer shall, with another person or persons appointed by the governance authority, be responsible to count all monies and keep a separate record of all receipts. The assistant treasurer may be empowered to issue receipts to the donors.

## **ARTICLE X COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

**Section 1. Elders.** The call of Christ the Chief Shepherd to men to serve as elders is both discerned and confirmed by the church membership. Elders shall therefore be male members of this church and shall be elected as specified in the church bylaws. The pastor and the other elders are the highest level of servant leadership in the church. As undershepherds, elders shall serve with the senior pastor to oversee both the temporal and spiritual affairs of the local church in order to accomplish Christ's mission. They shall constitute the Committee on Membership. They shall be the Committee on Discipline in accordance with the Uniform Policy on Discipline, Restoration, and Appeal of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. All officers, committees, and organizations except the Nominating Committee are amenable to the collective oversight of the elders through the governance authority.

**There will be a minimum of 6 elders exclusive of the senior pastor with an effort to maintain a ratio of approximately one elder per every 40 inclusive members.**

**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.

**The deacons will be responsible for the collection and distribution of funds and other materials associated with the church's benevolent ministry.**

**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.

**Comment [O11]:** This has never been explicitly authorized in our bylaws before, but we clearly want to empower the deacons to do this.

**Deaconesses shall**

- prepare communion elements
- oversee the preparation of meals for families experiencing a death, birth or illness
- visit sick and shut-ins
- send cards and flowers to those in hospital
- assist with baptismal services
- serve in other areas of ministry as needed

This committee shall elect a chairperson within thirty days from the Annual Meeting.

**Section 4. Trustees.** The trustees shall be members of this church and may be appointed or elected as specified in the local church bylaws. Trustees shall have charge of those ministries and duties as specified in the bylaws, or the laws of the state in which the church is located. Where there are no trustees, the governance authority shall assume responsibility for those ministries and duties until such are elected or appointed.

**Section 5. Great Commission Women.** Local church Great Commission Women may be established. They shall be organized according to the Great Commission Women policies as contained in the *CM Handbook*.

~~Leadership of Great Commission Women will be chosen annually by the members of the group.~~

**Comment [O12]:** See the earlier comment with regard to church officers.

~~Section 6. Men's Ministry. Leadership of the men's ministry will be chosen annually by the members of the group.~~

**Comment [O13]:** See the earlier comment with regard to church officers. Alliance Men has been removed from the Constitution. However, we felt that we needed to retain a reference to the ministry in our bylaws.

~~Section 7. Disciplemaking Ministries Council. This committee shall consist of the pastor, Director of Adult Discipleship, Director of Youth Discipleship, and Director of Children's Discipleship. These directors shall be recommended by the pastor for appointment by the elders.~~

**Comment [O14]:** The section on which this section is based has been deleted from the Constitution. Note that Article XII below now covers the same material in a more general way. This paragraph has also been made somewhat out-of-date with a Youth Pastor and a Discipleship Pastor now on staff. It may be wise to consider future bylaw additions in this area in the future.

~~Section 10. 7. Music and Worship Committee. This committee functions under the leadership of the Music & Worship Director Leader to oversee the Music and Worship Ministry of the church. It shall consist of the Music and Worship Director Leader and at least five people, one of which shall be an elder. Committee members will be recommended by the Music and Worship Director Leader for appointment by the Governing Board on an annual basis.~~

**Comment [O15]:** A change in wording that indicates we do not always have a paid staff member in charge of music and worship.

~~Section 11. Hospitality Committee. The Hospitality Committee shall work in conjunction with the staff to arrange meals and lodging for visiting ministers, missionaries or others who come to assist our church. This committee will be responsible to arrange set-up and clean-up for churchwide activities. Leadership for this committee shall be appointed by the Governing Board and members shall serve on a voluntary basis with a one-year minimum commitment.~~

**Comment [O16]:** This committee, which no longer has to perform many of the tasks indicated, has been replaced by the Connections ministry.

~~Section 12. 8. Nursery Committee. The Nursery Director will be appointed annually by the Governing Board. At least four two other members shall be recommended by the Nursery Director for appointment by the Governing Board. This committee is responsible for the staffing and upkeep~~

**Comment [O17]:** We believe two people are sufficient.

of the Nursery and to develop appropriate procedures for the care of the children and to ensure that the procedures are followed.

~~Section 13.~~ **9. Bylaws Committee.** The Bylaws Committee shall be responsible to consider any proposed or recommended changes to the Bylaws and shall refer the changes to the congregation for approval. The Bylaws Committee shall act as the Committee on Rules ensuring that the congregational meetings are conducted according to the Constitution and Bylaws.

~~Section 14.~~ **10. Grounds and Maintenance.** This committee shall oversee the cleaning, maintenance, security, and improvement of the church buildings and property. They shall follow the procedures as set forth in the Grounds and Maintenance Guidelines. The Grounds and Maintenance Chairman **will be appointed each year by the Governing Board and will recommend at least three other people for appointment by the Governing Board.** The Governing Board shall appoint one of its own members to be a point of contact with this committee.

**Comment [O18]:** See the section above with regard to church officers.

**Section 15. Ushers and Greeters.** Ushers are to receive offerings, to assist people with seating and other needs and to be available as needed to help the services run smoothly. Greeters are to make everyone feel welcome, especially, new and recent visitors. They should be familiar with all promotional literature and able to direct new people to appropriate classes and services. The Head Usher(s) and the Head Greeter(s) shall be appointed by the Governing Board upon recommendation from the pastor. Ushers and Greeters shall serve on a voluntary basis with a one-year minimum commitment.

**Section 16. Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee consists of the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and between two and four other members appointed by the Governing Board. This committee is responsible to count all monies, keep a record of all receipts, issue receipts to donors and prepare a draft budget to be submitted to the Governing Board by the November Governing Board meeting. The Committee will be chaired by the Treasurer or, at the Treasurer's request, another chairman may be appointed by the Governing Board. The committee will meet on a quarterly basis to review the overall financial position of the church and to issue reports to the Governing Board, making recommendations as appropriate.

## 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.

**Missions Committee.** The Missions Committee shall consist of at least five people and shall be appointed by the Governing Board prior to December 31. The pastor will serve as chairman unless he appoints another member as chairperson.

**Comment [O19]:** There is no actual change to this language. However, this section has been moved to reference a different part of the Constitution, as the section on missions conferences has been removed.

**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.

**Section 2. Records.** The official records of all officers of the church and all its departments are the property of the church. In the event of the death or resignation of the incumbent or upon the election of his successor, the current records of the office shall be passed on to the newly elected officer. All records other than current shall be kept in a secure repository selected by the governance authority.

**Section 3. Audit.** All financial records shall be examined annually or at more frequent intervals on order of the governance authority. At least three persons, none of whom is a financial officer or a church staff member, shall be appointed by the governance authority to conduct the examination. They shall follow procedures set forth in the current edition of the *Manual for Alliance Church Treasurers (and Pastors)*. The governance authority shall authorize actions to conform with additional audit standards that may be required by the jurisdiction in which the church is located.

**Audit Committee.** Each year the Audit Committee will audit the financial records of the church and all subordinate organizations and committees. The Committee will then submit written reports to the Governing Board prior to the Annual meeting. ~~The Governing Board will act on each report individually through a written statement, i.e. to approve, disapprove or make recommendation to treasurers.~~

**ARTICLE XIV  
NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Comment [O20]:** Note that this section has been moved to a new location, as the Constitution now mandates an audit. It is believed that the final sentence is unnecessary. The board has not been abiding by the written statement, although we have been making recommendations, as appropriate, to treasurers.

A Nominating Committee shall consist of the senior pastor, two members from the church membership, selected by, but not necessarily from the governance authority, and two elected from the church membership in a manner stipulated by the local church bylaws, at least one month prior to the annual meeting.

**The governance authority and the membership shall elect by ballot from among at least four nominees.**

**Comment [O21]:** This used to be in the Constitution. We believe that it is still a good safeguard, ensuring that the first two names mentioned are not automatically elected as a matter of course.

#### **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.

#### **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, and may not be challenged by any party in the absence of fraud, collusion, or arbitrariness. Should any party choose to challenge a decision based on fraud, collusion, or arbitrariness, such appeal shall only be made to the Board of Directors of

The Christian and Missionary Alliance. In order to expedite review of such appeals, the Board of Directors may establish a Board of Directors committee of not less than five Board members for the purpose of handling such appeals. The decision of the Board of Directors or its committee shall be final and binding on all parties.

**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.

## **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.

**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.

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