



Niagara Alliance Church Constitution and Bylaws

Revised 12/2014

NIAGARA ALLIANCE CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

This document was established, and is maintained by the membership of Niagara Alliance Church.

OBJECT

Niagara Alliance Church shall cooperate with The Christian and Missionary Alliance (hereinafter referred to as the C&MA) under the laws of the State of New York, in fulfilling its objectives.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The official name under which this church is incorporated or organized is Niagara Alliance Church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (hereinafter referred to as Niagara Alliance Church).

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 for membership shall consist of:

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 stated about.
3. Disciplinary action taken under the *Uniform Policy for Discipline, Restoration and Appeal of The Christian and Missionary Alliance*.

Any 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.

BYLAWS: ARTICLE III-MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. - Receiving

1. Candidates for membership shall be given an *Application for Membership*, a copy of the *Church Constitution*, a copy of the *C&MA Uniform Policy on Discipline, Restoration and Appeal*, a copy of the *Bylaws of the Niagara Alliance Church* (hereinafter called *Church Bylaws*), and any other material as offered by the Senior Pastor, or his designate. The Pastor, or his designate, shall endeavor to ensure that the contents of all of these documents are generally understood by the candidate prior to being interviewed. The candidate will meet with the Pastor or his designate as many times as necessary for the purpose of instruction in spiritual matters in regard to C&MA doctrine and organization.

2. Candidates for membership shall be interviewed by the Pastor and at least one (1) elder, or two (2) elders in the absence of the Pastor, as to their experience of new birth in Christ and their commitment to conformity to the doctrinal belief set forth in the *Church Constitution* and *Church Bylaws*, as well as their willingness to subscribe to the *Uniform Policy on Discipline, Restoration and Appeal*.
3. Candidates for membership shall be at least eighteen (18) years old.
4.
 - a) Members from other C&MA churches shall be received into membership after having received a letter of recommendation from their previous church and after having been interviewed as per ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP, Section 1. Receiving, Paragraph 2 of these bylaws to confirm their eligibility for membership.
 - b) Christians from non C&MA churches should be in regular attendance at least three (3) months prior to being interviewed for membership.
 - c) New converts should be in regular attendance for six (6) months prior to being interviewed for membership.
 - d) Upon recommendation for membership by the Board of Elders, candidates shall be received into the membership of the church at a regular Sunday morning worship service, publicly giving their assent to the declarations of membership.
5. Individuals, age 12 and over, may apply for Student Membership with the application process being the same as that of regular Membership. Student members may remain on the Student Membership roster while living away from the area so long as they are full-time students at a recognized educational institute. Student Membership does not include voting rights or availability to serve in elected or appointed positions. Student members may apply for regular membership once they are eighteen years old. Their prior qualification as Student Members will suffice as requirement for regular membership with no further requirements being made except as set out in these bylaws. Student members applying for regular membership shall be interviewed as per ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP, Section 1. Receiving, Paragraph 2 of these bylaws to confirm their continued eligibility for membership.
6. An Honorary Membership roster shall be maintained, consisting of those members in good standing who are no longer able to fulfill their commitment as members due to health or other reasons, causing them to be shut-in or home-bound. Honorary Membership does not include voting rights or availability to serve in elected or appointed positions.

Section 2. - Transfer

1. Members in good and proper standing may be granted letters of recommendation to other churches by the Pastor or the Secretary of the Board of Elders in the Pastor's absence.

Section 3. - Removal

1. Any member ceasing to be active for a period of six (6) months may have their name removed from the active membership list and placed on the inactive membership list unless they communicate, in writing, with the Senior Pastor and the Board of Elders, stating the reason(s) for their inactivity and their desire to remain on the active membership list. The Board of Elders will review any such request and communicate their response to the inactive member.
2. Inactive members may be withdrawn from the inactive membership list by the Board of Elders once they have been on the inactive membership list for at least six (6) months.

Section 4. - Christian Lifestyle

1. All members shall seek to live a godly lifestyle, bringing honor to Christ and His Church, and acknowledging the Bible as the only rule of our faith and lifestyle.

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Section 5. - Discipline

1. In all matters of discipline the *Uniform Policy On Discipline, Restoration, and Appeal* as found in the *Manual* will be adhered to.

Section 6. – Membership Rosters

1. All membership rosters (Regular, Student, Honorary, Inactive) shall be reviewed at least annually by the Board of Elders and updated accordingly.

Section 7. – Inactivity

1. A member shall be considered to be inactive if they fail to attend this church for a six month period or longer without a viable reason as determined by the Board of Elders. It is the responsibility of the member to indicate through writing or by verbal communication with the Senior Pastor or the Head Elder as to why they are absent.
2. A member will be considered to be inactive if they indicate through writing or by verbal communication with the Senior Pastor or the Head Elder that they will be attending another church instead of this church even though they are still living in the proximity of this church.
3. A member shall continue to be a member in good standing if they are not able to attend church because of physical or medical reasons so long as they are not attending another church more frequently than they are this church.

ARTICLE IV - ORDINANCES

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are recognized as the two ordinances for the church.

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: ARTICLE IV-ORDINANCES

1. The Lord's Supper
 - a) The Lord's Supper will be observed, circumstances permitting, on the first Sunday of each month and at other times at the discretion of the Senior Pastor or the Board of Elders in the absence of the Senior Pastor.
2. Baptism
 - a) Baptismal Services will be held at the discretion of the Senior Pastor or the Board of Elders in the absence of the Senior Pastor.
 - b) All candidates for baptism will be interviewed by the Senior Pastor or any elders whom the chairman of the Board of Elders may appoint in the absence of a Senior Pastor.

ARTICLE V - GOVERNMENT

There shall be an annual meeting of the members of the church to be held at a time specified in the bylaws at which time the members shall receive reports of ministries, including audited reports of the treasurers, and shall elect church officers, elders, and members of the governance authority. Additional ministry positions shall be filled as specified in the local church bylaws. The governance authority, as specified in the local church bylaws, shall conduct the affairs of the church between annual meetings and shall be amenable to the membership and the district superintendent as constitutionally defined. Other meetings of the members may be called by proper notice to the membership as specified in the bylaws. On general church matters in which no legal questions are involved, it is understood that all members in good and regular standing who have reached the age of 16 years are entitled to vote, but in matters involving titles of property or legal procedure, the laws of the state determine the age at which members are eligible to vote.

BYLAWS: ARTICLE V-GOVERNMENT

1. The date of the Annual Meeting shall be on or before the last day of February with the exact date and time to be set by the Board of Elders on an annual basis.
2. The business proceedings for any meetings of the membership shall be governed by the *Church Constitution* and the *Church Bylaws* where applicable. In other cases the current edition of Robert's Rules of Orders shall apply.
3. Notice in writing (Sunday bulletin as well as any other form of public communication deemed appropriate — i.e. church web site) and public announcement (during Sunday Services) shall be given at least two (2) Sundays prior to the annual and/or special meetings of the membership, or in writing by mail seven (7) calendar days prior to the date of the meeting.
4. One-third (1/3) of the total active members in good and proper standing shall constitute a quorum for any duly called meeting of the membership.
5. The legislative power shall be vested only in the active members present at any duly called meeting of the membership.
6. If fifty percent (50%) of the membership in good and proper standing request, in writing, a meeting of the membership, the Board of Elders shall order such a meeting to be held.
7. Meetings of the membership may be called by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total Board of Elders.
8. Minutes of all meetings of the membership shall be submitted to the Board of Elders for adoption.

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 listed pastoral staff, of this church, whether elected at the church annual meeting or appointed by 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: SECTION VI-LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNANCE AUTHORITY

1. The Board of Elders shall be the Governance Authority of the church.
2. The Board of Elders shall have the authority to delegate any of its responsibilities as the Governance Authority, of which it deems prudent to do so, to any such officers, committees or personnel of the church whom they shall determine as appropriate.

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 officers as may be designated in the church bylaws or in the state law.

BYLAWS: SECTION VII-OFFICERS

Section 1. Bank Account Signing Officers:

- a) Signing officers for church bank accounts (General Account and other Savings Accounts) shall be the Treasurer, the Senior Pastor, the Recording Secretary of the Board of Administration, and the representative of the Board of Elder's who sits on the Board of Administration.
- b) Signing officers for other church bank accounts (such as Alliance Women's Ministry) shall be appointed by the Board of Elders.

Section 2. New York State Trustees:

- a) There shall be three (3) New York State Trustees.
- b) New York State Trustees shall be elders.
- c) New York State Trustees shall serve three (3) year terms on a staggered basis whereby one (1) New York State Trustee is elected each year.

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 the 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 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 whether circumstances make such removal or transfer advisable.

BYLAWS: SECTION VIII-PASTORAL STAFF

Section 1. – Pastoral Staff

1. Individual members of the pastoral staff shall not be employed or retained contrary to the desires of the Senior Pastor.

Section 2. – Non-pastoral Church Staff

1. The Board of Elders shall not give consideration to any candidate for the non-pastoral staff without the approval of the Senior Pastor.
2. Non-pastoral staff shall be accountable to the Senior Pastor.
3. Any member of the non-pastoral staff may resign from their position by giving due notice of this intention to the Senior Pastor and the Board of Elders.
4. The Senior Pastor may, with the affirmation of the Board of Elders, ask for the resignation of any member of the non-pastoral staff.

5. Individual members of the non-pastoral staff shall not be employed or retained contrary to the desires of the Senior 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 and shall be responsible for the payment of bills on the order of the governance authority as specified by the local church bylaws, keeping proper book records of all transactions, and filing cancelled 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 the 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.

BYLAWS: ARTICLE IX-DUTIES OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1. Senior Pastor: No further applicable bylaws.

Section 2. Secretary: The Secretary for the Annual Meeting and other meetings of the membership shall be the Secretary of the Board of Elders or another designate by the Senior Pastor in the absence of the Secretary of the Board of Elders.

Section 3. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Meeting.

Section 4. Missionary Treasurer: The Missionary Treasurer's position shall be filled by the church Treasurer.

Section 5. Offering Stewards: Offering Stewards shall be appointed by the Board of Elders upon the recommendation of the church Treasurer and shall be responsible to count and record all monies received through the offerings of the church. Members of the Board of Elders and the Board of Administration are approved as offering stewards.

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 other elders are the highest level of servant leadership in the church. As undershepherds, elders shall serve with the senior pastor to oversee both the temporal and spiritual affairs of the local church in order to accomplish Christ's mission. They shall constitute the Committee on Membership. They shall be the Committee on Discipline in accordance with the *Uniform Policy on Discipline, Restoration, and Appeal of The Christian and Missionary Alliance*. All officers, committees, and organizations except the Nominating Committee are amenable to the collective oversight of

the elders through the governance authority.

SECTION 2. DEACONS. The deacons shall be members of this church and shall be appointed or elected as specified in the local church bylaws. The deacons shall have charge of those ministries and charities of the church as specified in the bylaws, receive offerings for such purposes and dispense the same, and make monthly reports as directed. Where there are no deacons, the governance authority shall assume responsibility for their ministries until such are elected or appointed.

SECTION 3. DEACONESSES. Deaconesses shall be members of this church and shall be appointed or elected as specified in the local church bylaws. The deaconesses shall have charge of those ministries as specified in the bylaws. Where there are no deaconesses, the governance authority shall assume responsibility for their ministries until such are elected or appointed.

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

SECTION 5. GREAT COMMISSION 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*.

BYLAWS: ARTICLE X-COMMITTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. Elders:

- a) Elders shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Their term of office shall be one (1) year.
- b) Elders should be knowledgeable in the Word of God, able to encourage and instruct from the Word, and be men of prayer.
- c) The elders shall elect one person from among themselves to be the Head Elder who will also serve as the Vice Chair of the Board of Elders.
- d) The elders shall elect one person from among themselves to serve as the Secretary of the Board of Elders.
- e) The elders shall elect one person from among themselves to serve on the Board of Ministries.
- f) The elders shall elect one person from among themselves to serve on the Board of Administration.
- g) The elders shall elect one person from among themselves to serve on the Niagara Mission Committee.
- h) The elders shall meet monthly, or as close thereto as is feasible or prudent and at other occasions as the Chair would determine necessary.
- i) The Board of Elders shall have custody of all real and personal property for the organization in trust. They shall receive and hold, sell or otherwise dispose of or encumber any and all such holdings as directed by a two thirds (2/3) vote of all active members present at a meeting of the membership duly called to consider such matters.

Section 2. Deacons:

- a) Deacons shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Their term of office shall be one (1) year.
- b) The Deacons shall function under the guidelines for deacons set out in the *Church Ministries and Guidelines Handbook*.
- c) The deacons shall elect one person from among themselves to be the Head Deacon. The Head Deacon shall serve as the Chair of any duly called meetings of the Deacons.

Section 3. Deaconesses:

- a) Deaconesses shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Their term of office shall be one (1) year.
- b) The Deaconesses shall function under the guidelines for deaconesses set out in the *Church Ministries and Guidelines Handbook*.
- c) The deaconesses shall elect one person from among themselves to be the Head Deaconess. The Head Deaconess shall serve as the Chair of any duly called meetings of the Deaconesses.

Section 4. Buildings and Properties Stewards:

- a) Buildings and Properties Stewards shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Their term of office shall be one (1) year.
- b) The Buildings and Properties Stewards shall have responsibility for assuring the upkeep and maintenance of all church buildings and properties.
- c) The Buildings and Properties Stewards shall elect one person from among themselves to be the Head Buildings and Properties Steward. The Head Buildings and Properties Steward shall serve as the Chair of any duly called meetings of the Buildings and Properties Stewards.
- d) The Buildings and Properties Stewards shall elect one person from among themselves to serve on the Board of Administration.
- e) The Buildings and Properties Stewards shall meet twice per year and at other occasions, as the Chair would determine necessary.

Section 5. Board of Ministries:

- a) In addition to the Senior Pastor and one elder, the Board of Ministries shall consist of a representative from each of the departmental ministries, including but not limited to, Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Men's Ministries, Women's Ministries, Missions, Niagara Mission, Music, Outreach, and Discipleship.
- b) The Senior Pastor shall serve as the Chair of the Board of Ministries, or at his request, the Board of Ministries shall elect from within itself one of its members to serve as the Chair.
- c) The Board of Ministries shall elect from within itself a recording secretary.
- d) The Board of Ministries shall be responsible to coordinate the various ministries of the church in order that they work in unison together toward the common good and purpose of the church.
- e) With input from the various ministries of the church, the Board of Ministries shall prepare a financial plan to be submitted to the Board of Administration for inclusion in the Annual Financial Plan, which will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting.
- f) The Board of Ministries shall meet quarterly or as close thereto as is feasible or prudent and at other occasions as the Chair would determine necessary.

Section 6. Board of Administration:

- a) The Board of Administration shall consist of a minimum of the Senior Pastor, the Treasurer and the representatives of the Boards of the Elders and the Buildings and Properties Stewards, as well as a representative of the Board of Ministries.
- b) Other members may be appointed to the Board of Administration by the Board of Elders as recommended by the Senior Pastor.
- c) The Senior Pastor shall serve as the Chair of the Board of Administration, or at his request, the Board of Administration shall elect from within itself one of its members to serve as the Chair.
- d) The Board of Administration shall elect from within itself a recording secretary.
- e) The Board of Administration shall have oversight of the finances and other administrative matters of the church.
- f) The Board of Administration shall prepare an Annual Financial Plan to be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting.
- g) In consultation with the other boards, offices and ministries of the church, the Board of Administration shall be responsible to ensure that a *Church Ministries and Guidelines Handbook* is maintained. This handbook shall contain such practices, which are deemed practical and appropriate in guiding the daily functioning of the church and its ministries. This handbook shall not be in conflict with the *Church Constitution* or the *Church Bylaws*.
- h) The Board of Administration shall meet quarterly or as close thereto as is feasible or prudent and at other occasions as the Chair would determine necessary.

Section 7. Safe Place Committee:

- a) The Safe Place Committee shall consist of the Senior Pastor, the Head Elder, and one other elder of the Senior Pastor's choosing, or two other elders of the Head Elder's choosing in the absence of a Senior Pastor.
- b) The Safe Place Committee shall obtain completed *Safe Place Declaration* forms from all persons serving in positions, be they elected, appointed, approved or otherwise, in which the person will be working with minor children.
- c) All *Safe Place Declaration* forms shall be held at the church office in a secured confidential file to be accessed only by Safe Place Committee members.

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Section 8. Other Committees, Organizations and Ministries: Other committees, organizations and ministries shall function as per the guidelines of the *Church Ministries and Guidelines Handbook* or as directed by the Board of Elders.

ARTICLE XI - MISSIONS MOBILIZATION

The church shall participate in the worldwide missions and church planting ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, and the support of the Great Commission Fund. The Governance Authority shall specify the means by which it purposes to mobilize members' involvement, including prayer, recruitment of men and women for vocational ministry both at home and abroad. A Missions Conference or congregation-wide event for missions mobilization shall be held each year.

ARTICLE XII-DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES

A major ministry of this church shall be making disciples of Jesus Christ. The discipling process includes evangelism, building up believers, equipping workers, and multiplying leaders, among adults, youth, and children. The Governance Authority shall specify how discipling is to be pursued. The purpose of discipling ministries is to bring people to a saving knowledge of Christ, teach biblical principles, emphasizing missions and the centrality of Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King, and equip people for evangelism and Christian service.

ARTICLE XIII - PROPERTY AND RECORDS

SECTION 1. PROPERTY. The 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 the order of the governance authority. At least three persons, none of who is a financial officer or 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.

BYLAWS: ARTICLE XIII-PROPERTY AND RECORDS

1. The fiscal year for Niagara Alliance Church shall be January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE XIV - NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

BYLAWS: ARTICLE XIV-NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. Nominating Committee members elected by the congregation shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Their term of office shall be one (1) year.
2. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be given in writing (Sunday bulletin as well as any other form of public communication deemed appropriate — i.e. church web site) at least two (2) Sundays prior to the Annual Meeting.
3. The Nominating Committee shall present to the Board of Elders names of those members they would recommend for appointment as the department heads for the various ministries of the church, including but not limited to, Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Men's Ministries, Women's Ministries, Missions, Music, Outreach, and Discipleship.

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 a unanimous vote.

BYLAWS: ARTICLE XV-ELECTIONS

1. Additional nominations, other than those made by the Nominating Committee, shall be made in writing and filed with the chairman of the Nominating Committee for posting one (1) Sunday prior to the Annual Meeting. Additional nominations must be signed by the member making the nomination and the member being nominated.
2. The term of office for all elected offices shall be March 1 to the last day of February of the following year.
3. All persons serving in elected or appointed positions must be active members of the church.
4. Non members serving in non elected or appointed positions which require them to teach or instruct others must sign a *Consent to Abide* statement declaring that they will abide by the doctrinal statement of the C&MA as well as the local church *Bylaws* and the guidelines in the *Church Ministries and Guidelines Handbook*.
5. The Board of Elders shall have the authority to fill any vacant elected positions between Annual Meetings.

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 contributions 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 revision 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 to abide by 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 Revision 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 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, 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 Revision 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 the church, without regard to how or from whom acquired, shall, upon the demand of the district if 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 the legal title to the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which the 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 Rights.** 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 about 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 about in a written agreement entered into in connection with such accreditation between this church and the district of The Christian Missionary Alliance in which this church was located upon its accreditation. The exclusion of property pursuant to this paragraph 5, and the agreement described in the preceding sentence, shall (1) terminate ten (10) years after this church's accreditation and (2) not apply to any church that was in developing status prior to its accreditation.

ARTICLE XVII - BYLAWS

Church bylaws not in conflict with this Constitution, the provisions of the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, the bylaws of the district within which the church is located, or the laws of the state are required and will be adopted by a duly called meeting of the church. As a minimum, the church bylaws will include provisions for the composition and name of its governance authority that is in keeping with Article VI above. A copy of such bylaws shall be filed with the district superintendent.

BYLAWS: ARTICLE VII-BYLAWS

1. The Bylaws of this church may be amended at a duly called meeting of the membership. Amendments must be by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members present at the meeting.
2. When bylaws are to be considered for amendment, notice in writing (Sunday bulletin as well as any other form of public communication deemed appropriate — i.e. church web site) and public announcement (during Sunday Services) shall be given at least two (2) Sundays prior to the meeting, or in writing by mail fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the date of the meeting. The written notice must include the original bylaw(s) and the proposed amendment(s).

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3. Bylaws that come into conflict with the *Church Constitution* through subsequent actions of General Council will be automatically edited or removed, as the case may warrant. Such action will be initiated by the Senior Pastor and carried out by the Board of Elders. All such changes shall be communicated to the membership in writing (Sunday bulletin as well as any other form of public communication deemed appropriate — i.e. church web site) and public announcement (during Sunday Services) for a minimum period of fourteen (14) days. The written notice must include the original bylaw(s) and the change(s) made.
4. These bylaws serve as a supplement to the *Church Constitution*.

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 council with the vice president for Church Ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance so as to conform to such laws.

ARTICLE XX. - POSITION STATEMENTS

See "Section G, Statements", in the *Manual*.

1. Niagara Alliance Church shall support and comply with the position statements of the C&MA as they appear in the current edition of the *Manual*.