



CONSTITUTION FOR LOCAL CHURCHES

Definition: A local church shall consist of members of The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia in any locality duly organised according to the constitution for local churches as adopted by the General Council. The work of the church shall be in the care of the Board of Elders under the leadership of the Solo Pastor or Senior Pastor.

Unless otherwise stated, the word "Pastor" shall be taken to refer to the Solo Pastor or the Senior Pastor in those churches where there are more than one pastor. (Council 2022)

1. NAME

This church shall be known as "The **EASTERN DISTRICTS ALLIANCE CHURCH**" Church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia."

2. MEMBERSHIP AND DOCTRINE

a. Qualifications for membership shall consist of:

- 1) Satisfactory 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 Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King,
- 4) Full sympathy with the Society's principles and objectives and co-operation by contributing to its work,
- 5) Acceptance of Membership Expectations, listed under 2.b. (Council 2023), and
- 6) Any other requirement that may be stated in the By-Laws.

By-Law 1. We acknowledge the Purpose of the C&MA Australia:

The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia is called by God to offer Him acceptable worship and to serve Him by establishing disciple making churches that will engage in world evangelisation with the four-fold gospel of Christ as Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer, and coming King.(AGM, 2023)

By-Law 2. We acknowledge the Objectives of the C&MA Australia:

The C&MA of Australia is committed to world missions, stressing the fullness of Christ in personal experience, building the Church, and preaching the Gospel to the ends of the earth, to be accomplished through the following objectives:

- 1) To be a part of the worshipping community of God's people, who delight in the redeemed life we experience as individuals and in the fellowship of the church, which by God's abundant grace, is richly endowed with spiritual gifts.
- 2) To proclaim the truth of God's Word and to disciple people of all nations, particularly where Christ has not been named, emphasising the atoning work and Lordship of Jesus Christ, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, and looking for the coming of the Lord
- 3) To establish local churches throughout Australia
- 4) To teach and train believers for the ministries of the Church at home and overseas
- 5) To establish and nurture churches related in fellowship with The Christian and Missionary Alliance around the world, dedicated to evangelism and missions.
(AGM, 2023)

b. Membership Expectations

Members wholeheartedly believe that God is leading them into the fellowship of this church. They shall endeavour by the help of God:

- 1) To live for Christ, seeking the infilling and refreshing of the Holy Spirit, promising to make the Scriptures the rule of their faith and practice, maintaining a godly home life by encouraging Bible study and prayer for such as may be under their care, and seeking by example and conversation to win unbelievers to Christ.
- 2) To pray for the Pastor(s), Elders and Deacons and other ministry leaders regularly.
- 3) To attend as far as possible, the regular services of the Church and its members meetings; to uphold its programme of worship, training and teaching; to observe its ordinances and affirm its doctrines; to be led with other members by the Holy Spirit to serve together in the Church peacefully, lovingly, humbly and prayerfully.
- 4) To maintain the unity of the body of Christ by acting in love, acceptance and forgiveness towards all; by refusing to get involved in gossip; by supporting, encouraging my church leaders; and by seeking to resolve all issues that arise as quickly as possible.
- 5) To recognise that the Great Commission is incumbent upon every follower of Christ and, therefore, it is their responsibility to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send forth labourers in missionary work from this Church, to respond to His calling on their life, and to pray for those who represent them in the task of worldwide missions.
- 6) To give regularly and cheerfully of my means, as God has provided, for the ministry of the church, for the worldwide work of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, and for the benefit of the needy.
(Council 2023)

c. Membership Classifications

Membership is a way of publicly saying that a person is committed to this local church and the mission of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia. As a result, members have the privilege of making decisions in this local church.

Applicants for membership shall be examined by the Elders as to their qualifications for membership.

The Membership Roll shall be divided into two sections, ACTIVE and ASSOCIATE Members.

(a) ACTIVE MEMBERS are defined as those who continue to demonstrate the qualifications for membership and are able to attend the regular services and meetings of the church.

Only Active Members shall have voting rights.

At the discretion of the Board of Elders those members of the Church who are unable to attend the regular services and meetings of the church may be given 'Associate Member' status which automatically entitles them to the privileges of full membership upon their return.

At the discretion of the Board of Elders, and after a minimum period of six months, an Associate Member may be removed from membership. A member so removed is able to reapply for membership at a later date should they be able to comply with the qualifications for Active Membership.

In extreme cases of failure to comply with the qualifications for membership the Board of Elders may immediately remove the person from membership.

(b) ASSOCIATE MEMBERS are members who are unable to attend the regular meetings and activities of the church, or who are unwilling to comply with the qualifications for Active Membership. Such members may have their names placed on the Associate Members list by the Board of Elders.

Associate Members do not have voting rights.

Any Associate Member desiring to renew Active Member status may approach the Board of Elders and request a review of their membership.

At the discretion of the Board of Elders, and after a minimum period of six months, an Associate Member may be removed from membership.

In extreme cases of failure to comply with these qualifications for membership the Board of Elders may immediately remove the person from membership.

In this Constitution, member means "Active Member" unless indicated otherwise.
(Council 2023)

3. ORDINANCES

Baptism by immersion is recognised as a Scriptural ordinance. Applicants for membership who have been baptised by another mode may be received on the above conditions of membership. The Lord's Supper shall be administered regularly.

4. BOARD OF ELDERS

The spiritual work and leadership of the church shall be in the care of a Board of Elders. Men meeting the scriptural requirements for eldership may serve as elders. The Board is responsible for the provision of pastoral care including visitation, counselling, anointing and prayer for the sick. It shall also watch over the church's programs to ensure their harmony and contribution to the purposes of the church. The size of the Board shall be set out in the by-laws of the church. Normally the pastor will be the chairman of the Board. The Pastor maintains the right to occupy the chair at any time, but has the option of appointing another elder to the position. The chairman shall facilitate the elders' meetings. When the church has no pastor, the Board shall elect one of its members to the position of interim chairman pending the calling of another pastor. (Council 2022)

The Board shall conduct at least monthly meetings for prayer and business. It shall receive reports to aid it in fulfilling its role and shall itself report to the church on matters affecting the congregation each month or as directed by the membership. It shall appoint its own secretary who shall, where appropriate, record the minutes of the Board of Elders and conduct correspondence as directed by the Board.

Pulpit supply shall be the responsibility of the pastor who shall act in consultation with the Board. The Board is responsible for examining candidates for membership, disciplining members and keeping the membership roll up-to-date. It shall be responsible for filling the unexpired term of positions becoming vacant between Annual Meetings and appointing people to non-elected positions. If an elder is considered by his fellow Elders to be living contrary to the scriptural standards of eldership and the Board of Elders consists of at least three it may by a two-thirds majority vote call for the resignation of that elder. Where there are only two Elders any call by the Board of Elders for resignation shall be in consultation with the National Board.

In all matters involving large expenditures of money the Board shall act in consultation with the Board of Deacons.

Where the church requires the Treasurer to sit on the Board of Elders, one elder will be designated the Treasurer with the following responsibilities:

- Oversee all the financial matters of the church;
- Supervise the framing of the annual budget and financial report to the annual general meeting (in consultation with the Financial Administrator where such exists);
- Present monthly financial statements to the Board of Elders (as prepared by the Financial Administrator where such exists);
- Be one of the signatories to all church accounts; and
- Be an ex-officio member of the Board of Deacons.

Where the Treasurer sits on the Board of Elders, the church may elect to the Board of Deacons a Financial Administrator to work under the authority of the Treasurer. (Council 2006)

By-Law 1. *The Board of Elders shall consist of the pastor (solo) / the senior pastor and Associate pastor(s) of the church plus no less than two and up to seven elders. (AGM, 2019)*

By-Law 2. The quorum at meetings of the Board of Elders shall be 50 per cent of its members. (AGM, 2023)

5. BOARD OF DEACONS

This Committee shall under the authority of the Board of Elders be responsible for the financial and property matters of the church and the provision of those ministries designed to meet the physical and material needs of people. In all these matters it shall see itself as working in harmony with the Board of Elders to provide a ministry to the needs of the whole person. Where appropriate it may conduct offerings for specific purposes consistent with its responsibilities. The Board of Deacons will also be responsible for those matters which the Board of Elders may delegate to it.

It shall consist of at least four elected members, including an elected Treasurer (or Financial Administrator) with the maximum number of members established by the By-Laws of the local church. (Council 2023)

At its first meeting after the Annual Meeting, it shall elect a chairman and a secretary who shall record the minutes of the Board of Deacons and conduct correspondence as directed by the Board.

It shall report at least monthly on its work to the Board of Elders.

The Board of Elders may fill the unexpired term of Deacons becoming vacant between Annual Meetings. If the Board of Elders considers a Deacon to be living contrary to the scriptural standards, or fails to meet the requirements for Active Membership, then the Board of Elders may call for the resignation of that Deacon.

(Council 2023)

By-Law 1. *The Board of Deacons shall consist of no less than four and up to seven members. (AGM, 2014)*

By-Law 2. The quorum at meetings of the Board of Deacons shall be 50 per cent of its members. (AGM, 2023)

5.1 CHURCH FINANCES

* All offerings including Faith Promise monies are to be counted and recorded by two church members. These should preferably be Deacons.

* All monies received are to be deposited as soon as possible in accounts approved by the Board of Deacons.

* All disbursements from church accounts are to be made by a method that transfers funds directly into the account of another financial institution or company. This must result in an auditable record maintained by the bank or financial institution holding the church's account. Examples of such methods include cheque, direct debit, Internet banking and Bpay. Cash withdrawals are permitted only within the operation of a petty cash system which is recommended with a maximum amount of cash held as petty cash determined by the Board of Deacons. All receipts/dockets paid using petty cash should be kept together with the petty cash. The total amount on all receipts and amount of cash left should always add up to the maximum amount of petty cash kept.

The Board of Deacons shall determine the number of signatories for each church account, in accordance with the number required by the bank or financial institution for it to permit operations on the church's accounts. All non-regular payments/transactions on the accounts should be handled by at least two people who are not husband and wife, or close relatives.

The Board of Deacons shall receive a monthly profit and loss statement and balance sheet in accordance with normal accounting practice. The treasurer should be available to explain the financial reports if needed. It is also recommended that a monthly Bank Reconciliation Report which shows the account activity (where bank statements and reconciliation reports for each bank account are compared to the balance sheet) is provided for two members of the Board to sign off on, as evidence that the financial statements reflect the actual activity in the bank accounts. Source documents such as tax invoices, receipts, etc should be kept where legally required and also to keep a good audit trail. (Council 2004, 2014)

* All financial records are to be retained for a minimum period of seven years or longer where State or Federal laws require (Council 2002).

* An auditor with suitable accounting qualifications and external to the Board of Deacons shall be selected by the Board of Deacons. (Council 1990)

6. OFFICERS

The officers shall consist of: the Solo Pastor, Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, Assistant Pastor and Pastoral Worker (where such may be called); Elders, Deacons, Treasurer, and where required Financial Administrator and Trustees and such other officers as the membership may elect. (Council 2023)

By-Law 1. All officers elected at the Annual Meeting shall assume their duties from the close of the AGM. An installation service for all elected offices shall be held at a suitable time. (AGM, 2023)

7. PASTORAL MINISTRY

In the appointment of workers to pastoral ministry (Section 9.1), only those licensed by the National Board of The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia will be eligible to serve.

Those called to pastoral ministry (Section 9.1), shall be called by the Board of Elders who shall make a recommendation to the church membership and the National Board regarding the person to be called. The Board of Elders shall not negotiate with any candidate without the approval of the National Board.

Where a church has more than one licensed worker one shall be nominated by the Board of Elders to the Active Members for election as Senior Pastor, in accordance with the requirements for a Senior Pastor. (Council 2023)

Licensed Workers may resign from the church by giving due notice of their intention to the National Board and the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders may, in conjunction with the National Board, ask for the resignation of a licensed worker.

All licensed workers shall be called for a term of up to 5 years under mutually agreed terms and conditions of employment. The ministry relationship will be reviewed at the end of each agreed term by the Board of Elders and the licensed worker. The Board of Elders shall make a recommendation to the church membership and the National Board concerning reappointment. (Council 2022)

8. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the pastor, two Elders and two selected by the congregation and shall be appointed at least one month prior to the Annual Meeting. It shall place in nomination one name for each office to be filled in the Annual Meeting and post its report two Sundays prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations in addition to those of the Nominating Committee may be made by church members. Such nominations must be given to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee in such time as to allow him to make known to the congregation the additional nominations on the Sunday prior to the Annual Meeting. Such nominations shall be in writing, duly seconded and contain the consent of the nominee. No nominations to church offices shall be received after the Sunday prior to the Annual Meeting. Where there are insufficient elders, the Board of Elders will select a person to serve on the Nominating Committee. (Amended Council 1985)

Churches with multiple congregations should refer to Item 9.4. (Council 2023)

By-Law 1. Only one member of a past or present nuclear family is eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee. (AGM, 2023)

9. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The calling to leadership in the church is a sacred calling and it is expected that all officers of the church shall live lives that conform with scriptural standards. They shall be filled with and bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

9.1 PASTOR

(1) Solo or Senior Pastor

The Solo or Senior Pastor shall in conjunction with the Board of Elders exercise a general oversight of the work of the church. He or his appointee shall be the chairman of the Board of Elders and/or the Board of Deacons. He, or his nominee, shall preside at all regular or special meetings of the church. He is a member ex-officio of all church committees. When the church has no Solo or Senior Pastor the Board of Elders shall have the oversight of the work in conjunction with the National Board. (Council 2022)

(2) Associate Pastor

The Associate Pastor is to be responsible for an area of ministry designated by the Board of Elders and may have a title that reflects that ministry such as Pastor of _____. He will be directly accountable to the Senior Pastor. He is a voting member of the Board of Elders.

(3) Pastoral Worker

The Pastoral Worker is to be responsible for an area of ministry designated by the Board of Elders and may have a title that reflects that ministry such as Pastor of _____. She will be directly accountable to the Senior Pastor.

(4) Assistant Pastor

The Assistant Pastor is under the direction of the Senior Pastor to assist him in the ministry of the church. He will be directly accountable to the Senior Pastor and may be designated with the title of Assistant Pastor. (Council 2022)

9.2 ELDERS

The oversight of the church shall be vested in the Board of Elders with the Pastor, or his appointee as chairman. Elders shall conform to scriptural standards. They may attend any other meeting of the church but not vote, unless otherwise entitled. Each elder shall serve a term of three years and be eligible for re-election at the end of that term. (Council 2011)

The Secretary to the Board of Elders shall be the Secretary of the Annual General Meeting and other special meetings of the Church and keep the minutes of such meetings. He may appoint a minute's secretary.

9.3 DEACONS

- 1) Treasurer (or Financial Administrator) shall serve a term of either one or two years and be eligible for re-election at the end of that term. The length of their term shall be set in the by-laws. The Treasurer (or Financial Administrator) shall keep the financial records of the church. The Treasurer (or Financial Administrator) shall present a current financial statement and the original bank statement(s) to the regular meetings of the Board of Deacons and shall present an audited financial statement of the church's receipts and payments for the financial year just ended to the Annual Meeting. (Council 1990, 2006, 2023)
- 2) Deacons shall serve a term of either one or two years and be eligible for re-election at the end of that term. The length of their term shall be set in the by-laws. (Council 2023)

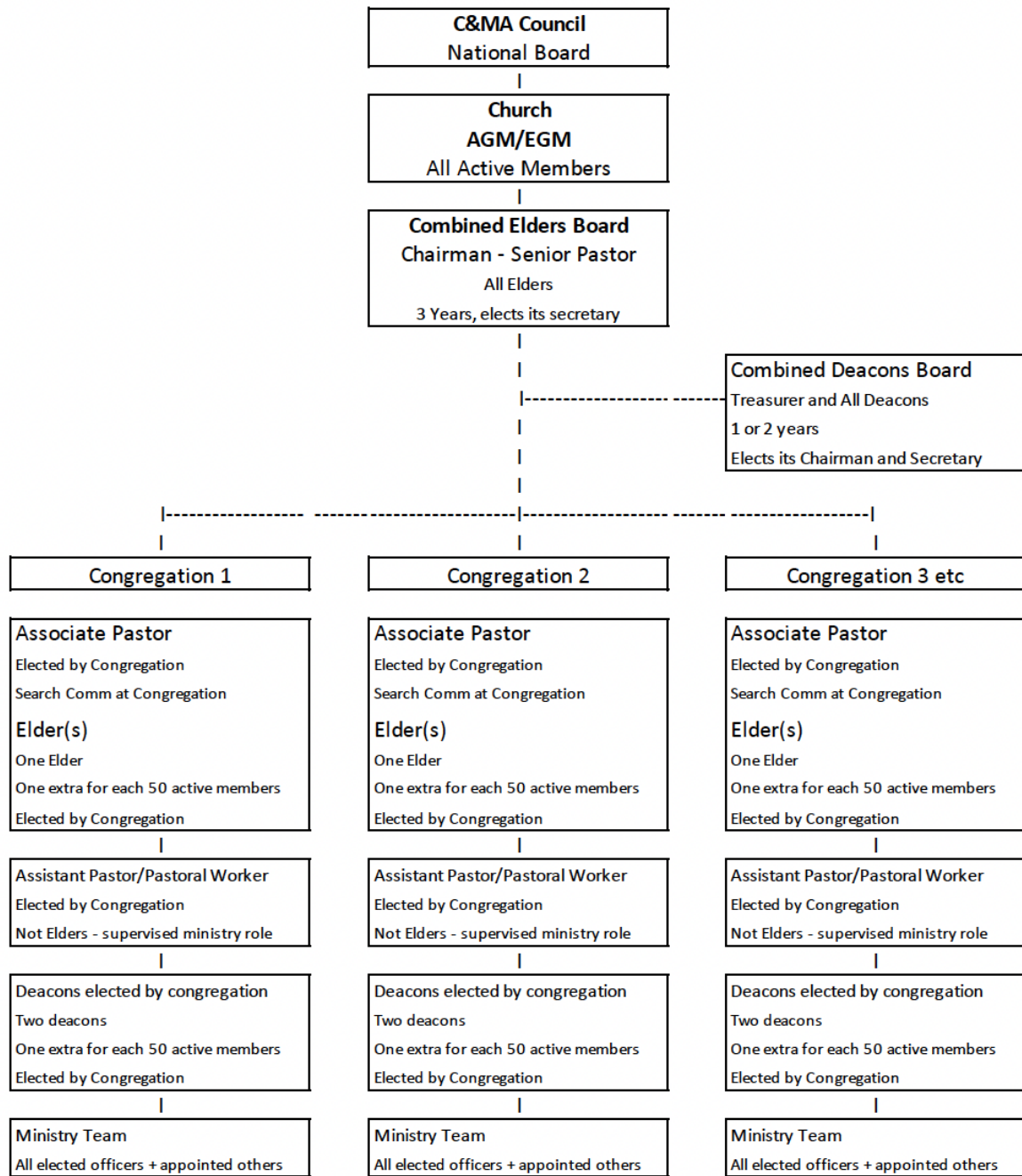
9.4 **LICENSED WORKERS, ELDERS AND DEACONS IN A CHURCH WITH MULTIPLE CONGREGATIONS**

Where the Board of Elders recognises multiple congregations within the church that have more than 20 Active Members, consideration should be given to the local church's need for congregational representation within the leadership structures of the church. (Council 2023)

In such a case, the local church shall allow recognised multiple congregations to nominate and elect Licensed Workers, elders, and deacons to represent them on a Combined Elders Board and a Combined Deacons Board. (Council 2023)

Active members in multiple congregation churches are to be congregational members of, and eligible to vote in, only one congregation. (Council 2023)

The chart below shows the intended structure of a multiple congregation church. (Council 2023)



Combined Elders Board

The Combined Elders Board shall consist of the Senior Pastor, all Associate Pastors and all elected Elders. A minimum of two elected Elders overall is required to form a Combined Elders Board.

Each congregation shall have one elder and may have one additional elder for each 50 Active Members.

The Senior Pastor, or his nominee, shall be the Chairman of the Combined Elders Board. The Combined Elders Board shall elect its Secretary.

(Council 2023)

Combined Deacons Board

The Combined Deacons Board shall consist of all elected Deacons. It shall serve under the authority of the Combined Elders Board.

Each congregation shall have two deacons, and may have one additional deacon for each 50 Active Members.

The Combined Deacons Board shall elect from among its elected deacons a Chairman and Secretary.

(Council 2023)

Calling Licensed Workers

For congregations wishing to call a licensed worker to serve them, the Combined Elders Board shall appoint a Pastoral Search Committee from that congregation. The Senior Pastor shall be a member of this Pastoral Search Committee. The Pastoral Search Committee will make a recommendation to the Combined Elders Board who will consider the person and make a recommendation to the congregation. A vote shall be held by the congregation at a meeting of the Active Members of that congregation.

(Council 2023)

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Senior Pastor (Chair), another congregational elder or congregational pastor from each congregation, as well as one active member from each congregation as selected by each congregation. It shall be appointed at least one month prior to the Annual Meeting.

It shall place in nomination one name for the church Treasurer to be filled at the Annual Meeting. It shall post its report two Sundays prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations in addition to those of the Nominating Committee may be made for the office of Treasurer by an active member. Such nominations must be given to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee in such time as to allow him to make known to the congregation the additional nominations on the Sunday prior to the Annual Meeting.

Those representing each congregation shall nominate Elder(s) and Deacon(s) to serve in their congregation. They shall place in nomination one name for each office available to each congregation to be filled at the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall post its report two Sundays prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations in addition to those of the Nominating Committee may be made for each office available to each congregation by active members from that congregation. Such nominations must be given to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee in such time as to allow him to make known to the congregation the additional nominations on the Sunday prior to the Annual Meeting.

Any additional nominations shall be in writing, duly seconded and contain the consent of the nominee.

No nominations to church offices shall be received after the Sunday prior to the Congregational Annual Meeting.

Where there are insufficient elders in a congregation, the Combined Board of Elders will select an active member from that congregation to serve on the Nominating Committee.

(Council 2023)

Election of Officers

Except for the Senior Pastor, the election of Licensed Workers, Elders and Deacons (the officers) shall be conducted at the congregational level. At the Annual Meeting each congregation's Active Members shall elect their congregation's officers.

Election is to be by a majority of formal votes cast by Active Members present, even when a nomination is unopposed. A majority is defined as greater than 50 percent. If a higher percentage is desired for Licensed Workers and Elders, then the church must add a by-law stipulating its requirements.

(Council 2023)

Congregational Ministry Team

Each congregation will form a Congregational Ministry Team. The Congregational Ministry Team shall consist of the elected officers from each congregation and other such ministry leaders as they determine. The Senior Pastor is an ex officio member of each Congregational Ministry Team. (Council 2023)

9.5 TRUSTEES

Where trustees are required, they shall be elected according to the laws of the State or Territory in which the church is located. They shall be custodians of all properties both real and personal. Their work shall be under the direction of the membership and the Board of Deacons.

9.6 RECORDS

The official records of all officers of the church and all of its departments are the property of the church. All financial records shall be audited annually or at any time on order of the church Board of Deacons. In the event of the death or resignation of the incumbent or upon the election of his successor, the current records necessary for fulfilling the obligations of the office shall be passed on to the newly elected officers. All records other than current shall be kept in a safe repository selected by the church Board of Deacons.

10. RELATIONSHIP

This church is connected with, and subordinate to, The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia, the parent religious Society.

11. GOVERNMENT

There shall be an Annual Meeting held, at a time to be fixed by the By-Laws, at which time it shall receive reports of all departments, including audited reports of the Treasurer and elected church officers.

A quorum shall be 50% plus one of Active Members. (Council 2023)

Election is to be by a majority of formal votes cast by Active Members present, even when a nomination is unopposed. A majority is defined as greater than 50 percent. If a higher percentage is desired for Licensed Workers and Elders, then the church must add a by-law stipulating its requirements. (Council 2023)

Absentee votes may be allowed if the church states this in a by-law. Absentee votes shall require written application and approval by the Board of Elders stating the reason for their absence. Absentee votes shall not be counted if the matter being voted on changes in any way at an active members Meeting. Absentee votes are not considered part of the quorum for a meeting to be held. (Council 2023)

The Board of Elders shall oversee the affairs of the church between Annual Meetings and is amenable to the membership and the National Board. On general church matters in which no legal questions are involved, it is understood that all members in good and regular standing are entitled to vote who have reached the age of sixteen (16) years, but in matters involving titles to property or legal procedure, the laws of the State or Territory determine the age at which members are eligible to vote. (Council 1992)

By-Law 1. The financial year of the church shall begin on the 1st of January and end on the 31st of December. (AGM,2023)

By-Law 2. The Annual Meeting shall be held on the last Sunday in February each year, or as close to that day as is practicable. (AGM, 2023)

By-Law 3. The quorum at any general meeting shall be fifty per cent of the active membership. (AGM, 2023).

- By-Law 4.** The following rules will be observed in voting in elections for the office-bearers:
1. All voting will be by secret ballot;
 2. Only candidates receiving a majority vote (at least half the members voting plus one) shall be elected to any office, even if the candidate is the only nominee for the position;
 3. When there is a single position to be filled (such as Treasurer) and more than one candidate has been nominated, and no candidate receives a majority vote, the vote shall be recast omitting the candidate who received the lowest vote. This shall be repeated until one candidate has a majority, or all candidates have been eliminated: and
 4. If no candidates for a position, or no one is elected, the position shall be declared vacant until the next AGM, or until an interim person is appointed by the Board of Elders. (AGM, 2023)

12. MISSIONARY CONVENTION

A Missionary Convention shall be held annually. At the conclusion of the missionary convention a Faith Promise for the Great Commission Fund for the next faith promise year shall be received.

13. 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 States or Territories where the property is situated and, where Trustees are required, they are to be elected by the membership according to law. Such property may be sold, conveyed, exchanged, or encumbered only by order of the membership through the church Board of Deacons. In States or Territories where Trustees are required, the order of the membership shall proceed through them.

14. NON-PROFIT CLAUSE

The assets and income of the church shall be applied solely in furtherance of the church's objectives to stress the fullness of Christ in personal experience, build the Church and preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, and no portion shall be distributed directly or indirectly to the members of the church except for charitable gifts or as bona fide compensation for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the church. (Council 2009)

15. CHURCH CLOSURE

15.1 CLOSURE PROCEDURE

There may arise from time-to-time situations that require the closure of a church.

Before that point is reached the Board will pursue possible ways to assist the church pastorally, and where needed, provide mediation. However, where these are not successful the following applies:

- 1) In order to dissolve a church a Special General Meeting called for that purpose may, by a three quarters majority of the members present and voting, resolve to dissolve the church. If such resolution is confirmed by a three quarters majority at a subsequent Special General Meeting held not less than twenty one (21) days nor more than thirty five (35) days thereafter, the church shall be deemed dissolved.
- 2) The notice convening such Special General Meetings shall clearly state that the dissolution of the church is to be proposed.

- 3) The National Board may initiate the closure of a local church under one or more of the following circumstances:
 - a. where the church for a continuous period of three (3) calendar months fails to hold any meetings of the kind that, in the opinion of the National Board, are customarily held by the Local Alliance Churches
 - b. ceases to be a member church of the CMA
 - c. ceases to adhere to and observe those doctrines and practices held by the C&MA of Australia
 - d. maintains, propagates doctrines, or practices which, in the opinion of the National Board, are inconsistent with the doctrines and practices of the C&MA of Australia.
- (Council 2003)

15.2 DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

In the event that the members of a church vote to close the church then the assets of the church shall be dealt with in the following way:

- 1) Where the property, appurtenances and effects are held for the church in trust by the C&MA of Australasia Property Trust, the terms of the trust deed shall be followed.
- 2) Where the property, appurtenances and effects are held by a local church which is an incorporated body, and if upon the dissolution of the church there remains after satisfaction of its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be *paid to or distributed amongst the members. The surplus assets shall be given to* The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia Incorporated, the parent religious body, to be used as determined by the National Board; or
if the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia Incorporated does not exist the assets must be given to another entity which:
 - a. has objects similar to the church's objects; and
 - b. has rules which prohibit the distribution of the entity's income and assets to its members.

These requirements must be set out clearly in the church's Incorporation documents.

- 3) Where the property, appurtenances and effects are held by a local church which is managed by its own trustees, and if upon the dissolution of the church there remains after satisfaction of its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members. The surplus assets shall be given to The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia Incorporated, the parent religious body, to be used as determined by the National Board; or
if the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia Incorporated does not exist the assets must be given to another entity which:
 - a. has objects similar to the church's objects; and
 - b. rules which prohibit the distribution of the entity's income and assets to its members."
- (Councils 2003, 2009)

16. INCORPORATION DOCUMENTS

Local Alliance churches that incorporate must ensure that their incorporation documents are consistent with this Constitution for Local Churches. Any inconsistencies between this constitution and the church's documents of incorporation must be rectified in favour of this constitution. Failure to do so in a reasonable time may render the church concerned liable to being not recognised as a church of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia Inc. (Council 2003)

17. AMENDMENT CLAUSE

This Constitution may be amended from time to time by the General Council by a three-quarters majority vote of the members present. (Council 2002)

18. BY-LAWS

Local By-Laws not in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution may be adopted by the Annual Meeting of the church. A copy of such By-Laws shall be approved and filed with the National Board.
(Council 1970,1971,1984)