

Ordination Policy

A Policy of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada

Ordination is the solemn observance whereby representatives of the church corporate, together with the elders representing the local congregation, set apart and charge those persons whom God has called already and equipped for ministry, through the laying on of hands and the offering of prayer for spiritual endowment.

The following general directives will govern the process leading to ordination:

1. The president shall be responsible for the Ordination Policy, including the Ordination Requirements. Administration of the policy shall be the responsibility of district superintendents. They shall also submit recommended changes to the policy or list of requirements to the president.
2. The examining and ordaining body shall be constituted according to the Policy on District Organization.
3. Requirements for ordination are outlined in the Ordination Requirements policy.
4. Those who hold a portable license issued by the C&MA are required to go through the ordination process.¹
5. The final decision for ordination rests with the licensing authority.
6. Candidates shall be required to complete the ordination requirements within a three-year period after placement in ministry. Oral examination will not be conducted until a minimum of two years of service is completed.²
7. The ordination of ordained persons with acceptable ministry experience in a recognized denomination or group may be sustained by the ordaining council. The licensing authority of each district will determine whether the candidate's previous ordination experience aligns with C&MA ordination requirements, or supplementary work will be required.
8. The conducting of an ordination service for and/or the conferring of the title of "Reverend" upon the successful candidate may be waived with the permission and at the discretion of the licensing authority.
9. Ordination may be revoked by the C&MA at the recommendation of a discipline committee.
10. While gifting and spiritual power may remain, when a person no longer bears a portable or worker emeritus license of the C&MA, that person's ordination is to be considered in abeyance. This does not indicate that they have had their ordination withdrawn, as may be the case were they found guilty under The Policy in Discipline, Restoration and Appeal for Official Workers, but that, no longer being licensed for ministry, they may not claim the title, status, or any functionality that comes with ordination, including speaking of themselves as being ordained.

Amendments

The Ordination Policy may be amended by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Amended – Board of Directors - March 1996

Amended – General Assembly 2012

¹ Rare exceptions may be permitted at the sole discretion of the licensing authority.

² Extensions may be granted at the sole discretion of the licensing authority.

Amended - Board of Directors - November 2015
Amended – Board of Directors – November 2020
Amended – Board of Directors – November 2023