

## **Ordination Requirements**

### **A Policy of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada**

#### **1. Reading List<sup>1</sup>**

Candidates shall read the following books and submit a two-page report focusing on personal application:

##### **1.1. History (Choose 1)**

- All For Jesus (Robert L. Niklaus)
- Footprints: The Beginnings of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada (Lindsay Reynolds)
- Rebirth: The Redevelopment of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada (Lindsay Reynolds)
- A.B. Simpson and the Making of Modern Evangelicalism (Daryn Henry)
- Advancing the Vision: The Fourfold Gospel in Contemporary and Global Contexts (Bernie Van De Walle)

##### **1.2. Biblical Theology (Choose 2)**

- The Heart of the Gospel: A.B. Simpson, the Fourfold Gospel and Late Nineteenth-Century Evangelical Theology (Bernie Van De Walle)
- Abide and Go: Missional Theosis in the Gospel of John (Michael J. Gorman)
- Rethinking Holiness: A Theological Introduction (Bernie Van De Walle)
- Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church (N.T. Wright)

##### **1.3. Deeper Life (Choose 1)**

- River Dwellers: Living in the Fullness of The Sprit (Dr. Rob Reimer)
- Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry (Ruth Haley Barton)
- The Empowerment Pivot: How God Is Redefining Our View of Normal (Douglas A. Balzer)
- Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship With God (Dallas Willard)

##### **1.4. Missions (Choose 1)**

- Completion of the Kairos course
- Short term mission trip with the C&MA<sup>2</sup>
- The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative (300 pages) (Christopher J.H. Wright)
- On Mission: Why We Go (Ronald Brown) \*\*Choose 1 of the volumes
- The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission (Christopher J.H. Wright)

##### **1.5. Holy Scripture (Choose 1)**

- God Has Spoken (J.I. Packer)
- The Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How You Read The Bible (Scot McKnight)

<sup>1</sup> The licensing authority may swap out a book(s) at their discretion if a given book is not available in a particular language. Candidates are encouraged to use the books on this reading list as sources for their other assignments.

<sup>2</sup> To be eligible for inclusion, this Short-term mission trip must have occurred AFTER the candidate enrolled in the Ordination program and must be approved by the licensing authority.

- Misreading the Scripture with Individualist Eyes: Patronage, Honor, and Shame in the Biblical World (E Randolph Richards and Richard James)
- Misreading the Scripture with Western Eyes: Patronage, Honor, and Shame in the Biblical World (E. Randolph Richards & Richard James)

#### 1.6. Biblical Anthropology (Choose 2)

- Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution (Carl R. Trueman)
- The Genesis of Gender (Abigail Favale)
- Love Thy Body (Nancy Pearcy)

#### 1.7. Disciple-Making (Choose 1)

- Contagious Disciple Making: Leading Others on a Journey of Discovery (David and Paul Watson)
- Spent Matches: Igniting the Signal Fire for the Spiritually Dissatisfied (Roy Morgan)
- A Jesus Shaped Life: Discipleship and Mission for Everyday People (Bob Rognlien)
- The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus' Essential Teachings on Discipleship (Dallas Willard)

#### 1.8. Specific Ministry Focus (Choose 1)

- Book pertaining to one's field of ministry.

#### 1.9. C&MA Manual

#### 1.10. Bible in a previously unread translation

Candidates may submit their written reports in the language of their preference. In some instances, where books are unavailable in the language of the candidate, other books may be substituted. All substituted books must reflect Alliance doctrine. When substitution of reading requirements becomes necessary, the selection of books shall be done in consultation with the district superintendent and the chair of each appropriate national cultural association recognized by The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada (the "C&MA"). Languages not represented by national organizations may substitute books in consultation with the district superintendent.

## 2. Theological Integration and Teaching the Scriptures

- Candidates shall submit an assignment (in the language of their preference) on each of the 5 specified topics below, addressing one or more of the questions, reflecting theologically on their understanding of the subject and demonstrating insight into its application to their personal life and ministry.
- Candidates may submit assignments in a range of formats approved by the district, which may include written papers, bible studies, videos, short sermon series, kids' curriculum, etc.
- For at least ONE of their five assignments, candidates must choose three role-appropriate oral teachings that successfully demonstrate the ability to exegete biblical text, steward God's Word with care, and integrate theology into contemporary situations as their chosen format. Those in a primary teaching role will submit three sermons. For other ministry roles, formats may include: sermons, podcasts, bible studies, devotionals, etc.
- For the other four topics, the candidate may choose from the range of format options offered in their district.

### 2.1. Christ-Centred Life and Ministry

When the C&MA has talked about being Christ-centered or “Jesus Only”, its intent has been to stress the fact that, in and through Christ alone, believers have full access to God and all that He has in store for them. As such, the C&MA asserts that Jesus, Himself, is sufficient for the fullness of human life, redemption, and thriving. Christ is, Himself, the means, measure, and purpose of Christian life and disciple-making. Please address one or more of the following questions in your assignment:

- What is the biblical basis for the centrality of Christ in Christian worship? (Why do we give preference to Christ-centred rather than Father-centred or Spirit-centred?)
- In what ways does the all-sufficiency of Jesus impact your life and ministry? (How might you teach this to help others experience the all-sufficiency of Jesus for themselves?)
- How does one or more of the elements of the Fourfold Gospel have a practical impact on the life and ministry of a Christian worker? How can we restore the life-changing impact of these historic tenets of the Alliance tradition in our ministries today?
- What might it look like for a Christ-centred believer to have an active and intentional discipleship to Jesus, including the making of other disciples? How does the life and ministry of Jesus as revealed in the Gospels inform the way you centre your own life around Jesus as his disciple and help others to do the same?
- Why is hearing the voice of Jesus essential to living a Christ-centred life? How would you disciple someone to hear Jesus’ voice? What are the ways in which you would coach someone to listen for it?

### 2.2. Spirit-Empowered Life and Ministry

Spirit-Empowerment through sanctification and the filling of the Holy Spirit have long been Alliance distinctives and are essential in the life of the believer and ministry leaders. Please address one or more of the following questions in your assignment:

- Part of the Fourfold Gospel is the proclamation that Jesus Christ is our Sanctifier. Explain the dynamic link between being Spirit-empowered and the sanctifying work of Christ. Why do we believe this, why does it matter, and what are the implications – for you personally? For the church? In a post-Christian Canada?
- What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit? What would be evidences that someone is ‘Spirit-filled’?
- What is the biblical precedent for Spirit-empowerment as we understand it?
- What kinds of spiritual practices might someone utilize to invite a deeper work of the Spirit? How have these helped you personally? How might you disciple others to cultivate greater Spirit-empowerment?
- Define the term cessationism and explain why the Alliance rejects the doctrine of cessationism.

### 2.3. Mission-Focused Life and Ministry

For more than 100 years, we've been known as The Christian & Missionary Alliance. And, while in past season, we may have primarily identified a 'missionary' as someone who served in an international context somewhere around the globe, our more recent emphasis has been on growing a missionary mindset no matter where God has called us. We are all to join God in His mission to see all of humanity redeemed and restored to Him. Please address one or more of the following questions in your assignment:

- Why is "Mission" important today? How does the fate of humanity motivate the Church to be engaged in mission?
- Trace the mission of God from Genesis to Revelation. What are key supporting scriptures found in at least 10 OT and at least 10 NT books of the Bible?
- How would you articulate the 'Mission of God' and what scriptures would you use to challenge all believers to participate, regardless of their vocation or where they live?
- Identify some key barriers of perception people have about believers being on 'mission'. How would you address these?
- Describe how your life currently is aligned with the mission of God and how you are intentionally seeking to live out a 'missionary' mindset in your community (outside the walls of the church and 'mission-specific' programming). Reflect on your practice of prayer, time & energy, personal strategy, and financial habits. Make sure you reflect theologically on the mission of God.
- How is mission motivated by the return of Christ? What role did the return of Christ play in the formation of the Alliance's doctrine of mission, and what role does/should it play today?

### 2.4. The Scriptures

The Scriptures are the Word of God and are authoritative and foundational for all of life and ministry practice. Please address one or more of the following questions in your assignment:

- Why do we believe this, why does it matter, and what are the implications – for you personally? For the church? In a post-Christian Canada?
- How did we get the Bible as we have it today? What role did the early church councils play in the development of a Christian understanding of the canonicity of Scripture? How does this support the validity of the scriptural claims?
- What is the basis for claiming the Bible as the authority for our lives?
- What are the range and limits of the terms: inspiration, inerrancy and infallibility? Why are these doctrines important in a post-modern culture where truth is often considered relative?
- Articulate how you would respond to at least 3 of the following common objections to the validity of the Bible:
  - The Bible is full of contradictions and discrepancies and is therefore unreliable.
  - The Bible should be labeled as 'hate speech' (after all, it's full of violence, genocide, prejudice and injustice – often commanded by God).
  - The Bible has been proven wrong by science.

- The Bible is a book written by ancient and primitive people – we’ve progressed in our thinking and understanding since then.
- Christians can’t agree on proper interpretation, so there’s no way to really know what is true.
- It is common for Christian to use claims within the Bible itself to defend the idea that the Bible is the Word of God. This is circular reasoning.

### 2.5. Divine Healing

Canadian culture is on an increasingly secular trajectory. In some places and for various reasons, even evangelical church culture presently and practically denies the supernatural and contemporary effects of Christ’s atoning work, at least for our physical being, and at least for today. In the face of this, the C&MA declares that Christ is our Healer and that His healing touch applies not only to the whole of human being, body and soul, but that it is active and effective today—in the here and now. Please address one or more of the following questions in your assignment:

- What do the Scriptures teach about the availability of divine healing for today? To whom and to what does it apply? What might it look like in practice?
- How might we wisely steward this gift of grace with those we encounter?
- Describe the relationship between the provision for healing and the atonement.
- What do we mean when we say that Christ is our Healer?
- How would you counsel someone who has been prayed for and yet not received healing? How do you integrate a theology of suffering with a theology of healing?

### 3. Oral Examination

Candidates shall complete an oral examination before the ordaining council. To the extent possible, ordaining councils shall include ordained pastors fluent in the language of the candidate. The council will examine a candidate's:

- a) call to the Gospel ministry;
- b) personal experience and maturity in Christ;
- c) theological understanding and working knowledge of Scripture;
- d) completion of the study, written and speaking requirements; and
- e) evaluations from local church leadership and the district superintendent.

### 4. Amendments

Ordination requirements may be amended by the president as per Ordination Policy, item 1.

Revised May 2010

Amended by the president - July 2016

Amended by the president – February 2024

Amended by the president - September 2024