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# Licenses for the Solemnization of Marriage Policy

## Preamble

This policy is in keeping with both the Qualifications for Registration of religious representatives as required in the *Marriage Act* of British Columbia and the *Ordination Policy* of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada (C&MA). The Vital Statistics Agency of BC has a narrow view of who qualifies to be registered as a religious representative, and as abuses of the privilege to officiate weddings jeopardize the ability of the Canadian Pacific District (CPD) to request clergy licenses for all licensed workers, the following policy is in place.

## Permanent Clergy Licenses

Upon ordination or upon an ordained licensed worker moving to the district, the CPD will apply for a permanent clergy license for the solemnization of marriages by applying on their behalf for registration as a religious representative. All requests are subject to approval by the Vital Statistics Agency of BC. Once registered, a permanent clergy number will be issued to the licensed worker and a record of the approval will be kept at the District Office.

Ordained license workers who retire and qualify for an Emeritus Worker license under the *Licensing Policy* of the C&MA may choose to retain their permanent clergy number in retirement.

## Temporary Clergy Licenses

Upon request, the CPD will apply for temporary clergy licenses for the following individuals:

- non-ordained CPD licensed workers
- licensed workers from other C&MA districts in Canada
- Emeritus Workers who chose not to retain a permanent clergy license
- previously ordained former workers who were licensed within the previous five years and are in good standing

Good standing for former workers may be determined by any or all of the following:

- consulting with the CPD Lead Team about the former worker
- consulting with the district office that issued the former worker's license
- requesting information about the former worker's ministry and/or career since they were last licensed with the C&MA
- confirming active membership or involvement in a CPD church
- gaining a reference from the pastor of the former worker's current church

### **Temporary Clergy License Requests**

Information must be submitted to the CPD a minimum of four weeks in advance of the wedding date for each wedding a worker is officiating. All weddings officiated under a temporary clergy license must be performed in connection to a CPD church, which is determined by one of the following criteria:

- the worker is licensed currently in the C&MA
- the worker officiating was previously in a pastoral role at the CPD church and has been asked by the church to officiate the wedding
- the couple being married attend a CPD church
- the wedding is taking place at a CPD church

Weddings may take place at any location in BC and are not required to take place at a CPD church. All requests are subject to approval by the Vital Statistics Agency of BC.

### **Lay Leaders**

A temporary clergy license will not be requested for a person who has not been licensed at any point with the C&MA. Lay people and other leaders within a district church may be involved, even in significant ways, in a marriage ceremony except for the official act of solemnizing the marriage.

### **Amendments**

March 2016

June 2017

March 2018

August 2021