

Policy on General Assembly

A Policy of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada

The General Assembly, thoroughly representative of the entire membership, is the ultimate authority under God of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada (the "C&MA").¹

Article 1 – Presiding Officer - Moderator

A Moderator shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.² one year in advance of the General Assembly meeting. The Moderator's duty shall be to act as chair of the business sessions of the General Assembly. The Moderator may be assisted in this capacity by anyone so designated by the Board of Directors.

Article 2 – Function of General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest legislative authority in the C&MA. All legislation enacted by Assembly is therefore binding on all member churches.

The General Assembly shall require full reports from the Board of Directors through the president.

Legislation may be enacted by General Assembly. Such legislation shall direct and limit the administration.

Assembly planning committees shall ensure that in addition to adequate time for business, there are times for worship, inspiration, and fellowship at each Assembly.

Article 3 – Basis of Representation

3.1. Voting Delegates

3.1.1. Voting delegates.³ include:

- a) Persons holding an Official Worker's license, issued by proper authorities in the denomination;
- b) Members of the Board of Directors, and such others as it may designate;
- c) Lay members of special committees of General Assembly who may not have been otherwise appointed;
- d) Lay members of national committees;
- e) Lay members of District Executive Committees.

3.1.2. All lay delegates appointed by Member churches must be members of that Christian and Missionary Alliance church.⁴

¹ General Operating Bylaw No.3, Article 2, Item 2.6

² General Operating Bylaw No.3, Article 5, Item 5.3

³ General Operating Bylaw No.3, Article 2, Item 2.4

⁴ General Operating Bylaw No.3, Article 2, Item 2.4

3.1.3. Churches that have adopted the Local Church Constitution of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada may send two lay delegates. If the active membership of the Member church is 150 or more, another lay delegate may be sent for each additional 100 members, or fraction thereof. The Board of each Member church shall be responsible for the certification of its lay delegates. This certification is to be verified by the signature of the Secretary of the Board of the Member church.

3.1.4. Churches that have adopted the Constitution for Developing Churches of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada may have one lay delegate appointed by the appropriate district superintendent, after consultation with the Advisory Committee. This appointment is to be verified by the signature of the district superintendent.

3.2. Non-voting Delegates

3.2.1. A non-voting delegate may be admitted by a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly, without the right to debate or vote.

3.2.2. Non-voting delegates include:

- a) Any member of a church of the C&MA attending the General Assembly as a visitor upon verification by an authorized representative of the member church;
- b) Any representative of any national church in working agreement with the C&MA, appointed by such national church; and
- c) Such representatives of contributing societies as the Board of Directors may invite.

Article 4 – General Assembly Committees

4.1. General Assembly Committees

General Assembly Committees shall include:

- a) Committee on Finance
- b) Committee on General Legislation
- c) Committee on Nominations
- d) Committee on Rules
- e) Committee on Strategic Plan

The Board of Directors and/or General Assembly may designate other committees as the need arises.

4.2. Composition and Appointment of General Assembly Committees

4.2.1. The Committee on Nominations shall include:

- a) The chair; vice chair; secretary, as elected by General Assembly.
- b) Two persons elected by each District Conference.
- c) Two international workers appointed by the Board of Directors.

4.2.2. The Committee on Rules is a three-member committee composed of the chair, vice chair, and secretary only, appointed by the Board of Directors.

4.2.3. Other committees shall include:

- a) The chair; vice chair; secretary, as appointed by the Board of Directors out of the committee membership elected by District Conference.
- b) As far as possible, three persons elected by each District Conference.
- c) Three international workers appointed by the Board of Directors.

Article 5 – Procedures

5.1. Introducing Legislation at General Assembly

5.1.1. All resolutions proposing new laws or regulations, or amendments to existing laws or regulations, presented directly on the floor of General Assembly shall be referred to the appropriate committee, or to such other standing committee as the chair will direct, before being discussed by General Assembly.

5.1.2. No legislation introduced from the floor of General Assembly, requiring submission to a General Assembly committee before being considered, shall be presented on the last day of business sessions of General Assembly.

5.2. Approach to General Assembly

5.2.1. District Conferences may approach General Assembly on matters pertaining to the general policies of the denomination through the Board of Directors by a properly prepared proposal. Such proposal shall receive careful consideration in its relationship to the denomination by the Board of Directors and either be passed on to General Assembly, with or without recommendation, or be referred to all District Conferences so that, if fifty (50) percent of the conferences approve, it shall be passed on to General Assembly, and if not, it shall not be passed on to General Assembly.

5.2.2. Voting delegates to General Assembly have the right to appear before meetings of General Assembly committees and present their views on any subject before it, at such reasonable times as, upon request, the committee may appoint, but during the deliberation of the committee, no one has a right to be present except the members of the committee.

5.2.3. If any voting delegate to General Assembly desires a special privilege, the delegate shall address the chair and make known the nature of the request. If, in the judgment of the chair, the request seems to be in order, the chair may assign the delegate the floor for a period not to exceed three minutes. If the chair feels the speaker should have more time, the chair may refer it to the body for an extension.

5.3. Reports to General Assembly

5.3.1. Report of the Board of Directors

The Report of the Board of Directors, through the president, shall present a survey of all the work of the C&MA, including matters reported and referred. This report shall be placed in the hands of the delegates at the opening session of the General Assembly. The final disposition of matters that have been referred to various committees, divisions, commissions, Board of Directors, or individuals, will be included in the Board of Directors' report to the General Assembly.

5.3.2. General Assembly Committees' Reports

The committees of General Assembly shall carefully consider all reports and matters referred to them and shall report to the Assembly, with such recommendations as they may consider advisable.

Committees may also consider other matters that normally come within the scope of said committees, not growing out of these reports. Recommendations, however, growing out of matters not referred, are to be presented as a first reading before final action is taken at a subsequent session.

5.3.3. Disposition of Reports

All parts of the report from the Board of Directors shall be referred to an appropriate committee of the General Assembly before being discussed by the Assembly.

5.3.4. Reports of Special Committees or Commissions

All reports of special committees or commissions elected or appointed by the General Assembly, whose personnel are determined by the Assembly, shall be reported directly to the Assembly, and after the second reading may be discussed by the Assembly. Such reports shall be presented in written form and made available to all delegates.

5.4. Changes to the General Operating Bylaw, Policies, and Guidelines

All legislation proposing changes to the General Operating Bylaw, policies, or guidelines shall be presented to the General Assembly with the principles of such changes defined without the technical wording of the amendments. When these changes have been approved by the General Assembly, they shall then be referred to the Committee on Rules for proper wording and reported back to the General Assembly for final approval.

5.5. Quorum

5.5.1. One-third of the registered delegates shall constitute a quorum.⁵

5.5.2. In the event that elections have not been completed and a quorum is not present, all incomplete elections shall be referred to the Board of Directors with power to fill vacancies until the next General Assembly.

5.6. Rules of Order⁶

Where there is no existing legislation, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order will apply.

Article 6 - Amendments

Amendments to the Policy on General Assembly may be made only by special resolution at any regular business session of General Assembly, written notice having been given prior to General Assembly.

Adopted – General Assembly 1980
Amended – General Assembly 2012
Amended – General Assembly 2014
Amended - General Assembly 2016
Amended – General Assembly 2018
Amended – General Assembly 2022

⁵ General Operating Bylaw No.3, Article 5, Item 5.4

⁶ General Operating Bylaw No.3, Article 1, Item 1.10

Amended – General Assembly 2024