

## **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 enduement.

The following general directives will govern the practice of 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. A basic ordination program, including reading of selected material, the preparation of papers on selected subjects, an oral examination, and practical church ministry will be outlined in a list of requirements.
4. Candidates shall be required to complete the ordination requirements within a three-year period after placement in ministry. Extensions are not normally granted but may be granted for extenuating circumstances. Requests need to be made according to the district procedures. Bi-vocational pastors may have four years to complete the ordination program with an extension of up to one year.
5. Only persons who are definitely called to a preaching or theological ministry shall be considered for ordination.
6. Only those who hold a portable license issued by the C&MA are eligible to be ordained.
7. A seminary or Bible college graduate may be considered for ordination after one year of acceptable ministry as a pastor, provided the candidate has been licensed for at least one year during training.
8. The ordination of ordained persons with acceptable ministry experience in a recognized denomination or group may be sustained by the ordaining council. The licensing or ordination council of each district will determine whether the candidate's previous ordination experience will suffice, or supplementary work will be required.
9. When circumstances require, the Vice President of Global Venture may request the ordination of a candidate who has not fulfilled the necessary three-year requirement for ordination. The president may make exception to the general directives for ordination when considered advisable.<sup>1</sup>
10. Candidates shall be assigned to a suitable mentor by the appropriate district, who will act as counselor during the candidate's program.
11. Each district will establish procedures governing the arrangements for ordination services for successful candidates.
12. Ordination may be revoked by the C&MA at the recommendation of a discipline committee.
13. While gifting and spiritual power may remain, when a person has left ministry and no longer bears a portable or emeritus worker's license of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, that person's ordination

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<sup>1</sup> The final decision of ordination is dependent upon the recommendation of the church board.

should be considered as in abeyance. This means that they have not had their ordination lifted, as would be the case were they under discipline, but that, no longer being active in the ministry, they may not claim the 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

Amended - Board of Directors - November 2015