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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. 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 workers, the following policy is in place.

## Permanent Clergy Licenses

It is the CPD policy to authorize its ordained licensed workers for the solemnization of marriages by applying on their behalf to the Vital Statistics Agency of BC 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 in the District Office.

## Temporary Clergy Licenses

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

- non-ordained CPD licensed workers
- out of province licensed workers
- Emeritus Workers
- former workers who were previously ordained with The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada (C&MA) 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

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- confirming active membership or involvement in a CPD church
- gaining a reference from the pastor of the former worker's current church

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

- 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

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 with the exception of the official act of solemnizing the marriage.

### **Amendments**

March 2016

June 2017

March 2018