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## Changes in the April 2023 Model Church Bylaws

The previous version of the *Model Church Bylaws* was released in October 2022 and was in effect until mid-April 2023. The current version includes the following additions and revisions:

- **Additions to and revisions of clause 2.3.3 to read:**

### 2.3.3 Member not in Good Standing

All members are in good standing except:

- a) a member who, in the opinion of the Board, has failed to remain active in the church, meaning that the member has been absent from the normal activities of the church for a period of **six (6)** months or more and has not communicated an interest in remaining a member of the church, or
- b) a member who is suspended from active membership at the discretion of the Board due to an accusation or allegation of serious misconduct that is the subject of an investigation by the church, the District, or a secular authority, or
- c) a member who is under discipline<sup>1</sup>

2.3.3.1 A Member not in Good Standing may not vote at meetings of the members, nor hold office in the church.

2.3.3.2 A Member not in Good Standing may be returned to Active Member status at the discretion of the Board.

2.3.3.2.1 A Member not in Good Standing who is an Official Worker may only be returned to Active Member status by the Board upon the authorization of the District Superintendent and confirmation that the discipline process is complete and the Official Worker is restored to active ministry.<sup>2</sup>

[Discipline and restoration of an Official Worker are under the purview of the district, not the Board.]

2.3.3.2.2 In respect of a member suspended under section 2.3.3 b), the Board shall consider whether to return the member to Active Member status at the first meeting of the Board following the completion of all relevant investigations, provided that such investigations have not resulted in a finding or charge of criminal conduct or conduct that could result in discipline.

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<sup>1</sup> As outlined in the *Discipline and Restoration Policy for Members of Local Churches of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada* and the *Policy on Discipline, Restoration and Appeal for Official Workers*.

<sup>2</sup> *Policy on Discipline, Restoration and Appeal for Official Workers*, Section 2.2



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2.3.3.3 Members not in good standing shall not be listed on published membership lists of the church.

- **Revision of clause 2.5 d) to read:**

d) upon having been a Member not in Good Standing under 2.3.3 a) for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months.

- **Revision of clause 3.1 to read:**

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS MUST BE HELD WITHIN **three (3)** MONTHS OF THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR ON A DATE SET BY THE BOARD.

[Financial statements must be presented at the Annual General Meeting and consideration should be given to an appropriate amount of time to allow for financial statements to be completed at the end of the fiscal year. Three (3) to four (4) months after the fiscal year end is the optimum and recommended timeframe. The Canada Revenue Agency requires that T3010 statements must be submitted no later than six (6) months after the end of the fiscal year, therefore six (6) months is the maximum allowable timeframe.]

- **Revision of clause 3.14 to read:**

THE MEMBERS MUST APPOINT AN INDEPENDENT CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT TO **COMPILE OR REVIEW OR AUDIT** THE CHURCH'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

- **Revision of clause 4.1.1 to read:**

IF THE NUMBER OF ELDERS FALLS BELOW THREE (3) PLUS THE LEAD PASTOR, THE BOARD MUST APPOINT AN ELIGIBLE ACTIVE MEMBER TO SERVE UNTIL THE NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

- **Revision of clause 4.1.2 to read:**

***Unless otherwise restricted, Active Members (OR who have attained the age of 19 (or 18) OR any other stipulation) are eligible to serve on the Board.***

[See the section on Board of Elders Composition in the *Guide to Writing Church Bylaws* for further information on other restrictions. Note that the age of majority is defined differently under different types of legislation.]



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- **Revision of and addition to clause 4.8 and its subclauses to read:**

4.8 The Board must appoint from among its members the following officers of the church – the Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer from among its members. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one person, in which case the position must be identified as Secretary/Treasurer.

[*The Local Church Constitution stipulates the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer are the officers of the church.*]

4.8.1 The Board Chair is an officer of the church.

4.8.2 At the request of the Lead Pastor, the Board may nominate a Chair for consideration by the Lead Pastor.

4.8.3 If the Lead Pastor is not the Board Chair, they remain an officer of the church.

