

**THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE IN QUEBEC
ST LAWRENCE DISTRICT**

DISTRICT BYLAWS

FOREWARD

The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Québec has existed as a distinct corporation since 1930 and is governed by the constitutional documents, laws and bylaws of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.

Since 1983, The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Québec has been recognized as one of the districts of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada. These districts are governed by the same policy, the *Policy on District Organization*, which is adopted by delegates at the General Assembly of the Christian and Missionary Alliance churches in Canada and can be modified only by them. Each district can adopt its own regulations to clarify the functioning of the district within the framework of the *Policy on District Organization*. These regulations are called the *District Bylaws*.

In order to help members and adherents of the St Lawrence District churches understand the connection between the *Policy on District Organization* and the *Bylaws*, each article in the *District Bylaws* has opposite it, in italics and parentheses, the corresponding article number of the *Policy on District Organization*.

The St Lawrence District churches adopted a strategic vision as a guideline for the furthering of God's kingdom in contemporary Québec society.

This vision is based on four fundamental movements:

- a) Globalized vision (all members of the body of Christ actively involved where God has called them for the furthering of His kingdom),
- b) Integrated vision (sharing resources within a common vision through networking)
- c) Transforming vision (incarnational: consecrated, incarnated influence in society)
- d) Life-generating vision (missional: life producing life; multiplication)

Essentially, the aim of this vision is that the communities of faith within the Alliance in Québec may:

Reflect Christ's values, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in order to be a holistic, spiritual influence on contemporary Quebec society for the kingdom of God.

1. **NAME** *(Article I – Name)*

The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Québec shall be known as the St Lawrence District of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.

2. NETWORKING

Christian and Missionary Alliance churches of the St. Lawrence District believe that the strength for developing local churches is found in the sharing of their individual strengths for the expansion of God's kingdom. In order to facilitate the application of its vision, the St Lawrence District has adopted the network model as its operational philosophy. (See document « *Principes sur l'Église locale et les réseaux* »)

3. DISTRICT CONFERENCE (Article 2 – Organization and Government, 2.1)

A) In the St Lawrence District, the District Conference, while subject to the Constitution of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, is the governing body. It is composed of official workers and lay people.

B) District Conference is based on the five objectives of the District Mission.

Mission: *Empower our local churches in their mandate to see the Kingdom of God grow in Québec.*

Objectives:

1. *Nurture the vision of our churches for a perfect, preferable future from God's perspective.*
2. *Deploy workers who reflect the character and priorities of Christ in their ministry.*
3. *Promote the development and church planting by means of networks.*
4. *Cultivate our passion to be ambassadors for Christ, by a contemporary incarnation of the character and priorities of Christ in order to influence society.*
5. *Stimulate the training of healthy disciples and leaders, serving, through the power of the Holy Spirit, in healthy churches which reproduce healthy churches.*

C) The goal of District Conference, in conjunction with its objectives, is:
a) to celebrate the advancement and development of the Strategic Vision
b) to seek God's face together as a community
c) to discuss future direction as related to the objectives of the St Lawrence District.
d) Receive appropriate reports and adopt the biennial financial statements.

D) District Conference shall be held every two (2) years, (uneven years) no later than June 30 of that year. The District Superintendent, together with the District Executive Network, can set another date if circumstances warrant it. In order to mobilize the troops (official workers & lay people) behind the same vision and create a sense of belonging, the date of the Conference shall be chosen to accommodate the best possible representation of official workers and lay people.

E) The District Executive Network shall insure the general organization of the Conference.

F) The delivery of the reports for District Conference to the local churches shall be considered to be the official deposit of such reports to District Conference. For the District Committee on Nominations, the first mailing of their report to the churches shall be considered the first and the second reading of their report, as stipulated in the *Governing Policy for the Committee on Nominations for the St Lawrence District Conference*.

G) Conference Committees shall be the following:

a) Accreditation Committee

This committee shall compile a list of all official and corresponding delegates, as determined by the District Constitution, and present this list to District Conference.

b) District Committee on Nominations (*Article 2 – Organization and Government 2.4.1*)

This committee shall be appointed and function in accordance with the *Governing Policy for the Committee on Nominations for the St Lawrence District Conference*. However, in preparation for the election of the District Superintendent, the District Committee on Nominations shall be chosen and function in accordance with the national policy of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada “*Policy on Process for the Election of District Superintendents.*”

This committee shall present to Conference delegates candidates for the following positions:

- District Superintendent (at end of term)
- Members of the District Executive Network (at end of term)
- Members of the next General Assembly Committee on Nominations (two)
- President, Vice-president and Secretary of the Committee on Nominations of the next District Conference
- Tellers for Conference elections (four)

c) The District Executive Network shall appoint other conference committees as needed.

H) Elections are conducted by ballot. However, in the event that there is only one candidate for a certain position, the candidate may be declared elected by acclamation, except for the position of District Superintendent and for positions on the District Executive Network.

(Article 2 – Organization and Government, 2.4)

I) The procedure for conducting business sessions shall be in conformity with the Constitution of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada and the St-Lawrence District Bylaws and, should the need arise, «*Procédure des assemblées délibérantes*», de Victor Morin. The District Executive Network shall function as the Conference Rules Committee.

4. **DISTRICT EXECUTIVE NETWORK**

(Article 2 – Organization and Government, 2.2)

A) The District Executive Network shall be made up of eight members, (not including the District Superintendent who is member ex-officio), who reflect the diversity of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Québec and, in particular, the different networks. Members are elected for terms of 2 years.

B) The District Executive Network members are the official legal members of the corporation of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Québec.

C) The District Executive Network also functions as the Accreditation Committee, the Licensing Committee and the Discipline Committee for the St Lawrence District, in accordance with the rules and directives found in the official manual of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

- D) The District Executive Network may invite partners of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Québec to send a representative to attend their meetings.
- E) District Executive Network may fill any position that becomes vacant between meetings.
- F) The Superintendent, secretary and treasurer may sign District documents. Two signatures are sufficient for all documents requiring an official signature from the DSL.
- G) The District Executive Network may designate other members to sign such documents.
- H) The seal for the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Québec may, when required, be stamped on any document which has been signed according to the above process.

5. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT (Article 2 – Organization and Government, 2.4.2)

The election of the District Superintendent is carried out in accordance with the national policy of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada: *Policy on Process for the Election of District Superintendents*.

6. DISTRICT COMMITTEES

The District Executive Network may appoint any committee or person deemed necessary for the accomplishment of the mission and objectives of the District.

The Ordaining Council shall be appointed by the District Executive Network, and shall function within the rules and guidelines as found in the Official Manual of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. The District Superintendent, or someone designated by him, shall be president of the Council. (Article 2 – Organization and Government, 2.5)

7. OFFICIAL WORKERS

- A) Every official worker of the St Lawrence District shall sign a mutual alliance before receiving his annual worker's permit.
- B) The District Executive Network, in consultation with the Board of Elders of a local church, may remove a pastor from his pastorate or transfer him if circumstances warrant such action. This decision shall have priority over all contracts, negotiations and previous agreements, whether verbal, written or understood.
- C) When disciplinary measures are taken in accordance with the regulations of the Christian and Missionary Alliance concerning a District worker, the local church shall be informed at a special members meeting, as well as other accredited District workers.

8. FINANCES AND PROPERTY (Article 2 – Organization and Government, 2.6)

- A) The financial year shall begin on January 1 and close on December 31 of each year.
- B) The District Executive Network shall study and approve:
 - a) Every project to purchase or sell property
 - b) Every construction or renovation project that requires a loan
 - c) Every financing project that requires a loan.

9. CHURCH STATUS

- A) The number of founding members of a local church at the time of its official organisation shall be at least twenty-five.
- B) Only those churches recognized as “organized churches” or “unorganized churches” can request to be registered as a charitable organization.
- C) When a church is not able to elect a Board of three elders (in addition to the pastor), it is temporarily placed under the guardianship of the District. The District Superintendent shall appoint the Steering Committee, as in the case of an “unorganized church”.
- D) In the preceding case, if there are candidates who meet the qualifications to be an elder in the church, their names shall be given to the District Superintendent and they shall be elected by secret ballot at a meeting of the church members.

10. AMENDMENTS

(Article 2 – Organization and Government, 2.9)

These bylaws may be amended by the District Executive Network and shall be in force until the next District Conference at which the amended bylaws shall be approved or amended by majority vote.

Adopted - May 1984
Amended - May 1985
Amended - April 1993
Amended - April 1995
Amended - April 1997
Amended - April 1999
Amended - April 2003
Amended - November 2008
Amended - May 2011
Amended - March 2013