

UNIFORM CONSTITUTION
OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE
AND
BYLAWS
OF THE RIVER VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH
610 Welsh Road Watertown, Wisconsin 53098
Approved January 29th, 2017

**UNIFORM CONSTITUTION FOR
ACCREDITED CHURCHES
OF
THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE**

Each accredited church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance shall adopt and be governed by the following Constitution.

PREAMBLE

The New Testament teaches that the local church is the visible organized expression of the Body of Christ. The people of God are to live and serve in obedience to the Word of God and under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance operates on the presupposition that the congregation finds broader meaning and outreach in fulfilling its biblical responsibilities within the life and witness of the denomination.

This Constitution has three objectives:

1. Set out in general an outline for organization and administration for this church.
2. Define the relationship of this church to the district of which it is an integral part.
3. Relate this church to the denominational framework through which the worldwide work of The Christian and Missionary Alliance is carried out.

The Uniform Constitution for Accredited Churches has been framed and adopted by the General Council, the denomination's highest governing body. The accredited churches of The Christian and Missionary Alliance have participated in this process through their authorized delegates. This church can, in accordance with this Constitution and in a manner that is consistent with the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, formulate its bylaws so as to carry out its ministry appropriately and efficiently.

This church is an integral part of the district, national, and worldwide fellowship of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and is united in governance, fellowship, and service in order to promote unity of faith in the fullness of Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King, and to facilitate the spread of the gospel at home and abroad under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**BYLAWS
FOR RIVER VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH OF
THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE**

PREAMBLE

The New Testament teaches that the local church is the visible organized expression of the Body of Christ. The people of God are to live and serve in obedience to the Word of God and under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance operates on the presupposition that the congregation finds broader meaning and outreach in fulfilling its biblical responsibilities within the life and witness of the denomination.

This document constitutes the Bylaws for River Valley Alliance Church, Inc. of The Christian and Missionary Alliance ("River Valley"). These Bylaws shall govern the nonprofit corporation through which the Church operates legally. As used herein, the term "River Valley" shall refer to such legal entity.

River Valley is an integral part of the Western Great Lakes District, national, and worldwide fellowship of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and is united in governance, fellowship, and service in order to promote unity of faith in the fullness of Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King, and to facilitate the spread of the gospel at home and abroad under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

River Valley is organized and shall be operated exclusively as a member church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, a church denomination which operates legally as a Colorado nonprofit corporation (the "C&MA"). Accordingly, River Valley shall operate under the sole ecclesiastical authority of, and be subject to the usages, doctrines and teachings of, the C&MA as set forth in The Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, as such manual may be amended from time to time by the C&MA (the "Manual").

Whereas River Valley exists and operates within the denomination of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, it expressly affirms C&MA's policy found in the Statement on Marriage - Divorce -Remarriage and the Statement on Human Sexuality. Furthermore, River Valley expressly affirms the Faith Community and Mission Policy.

Editorial Note: *The remainder of this document contains both the UNIFORM CONSTITUTION FOR ACCREDITED CHURCHES OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE, copied verbatim from the Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 2016 Edition and the BYLAWS OF THE RIVER VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH. For convenience, we have interspersed the bylaws in each Article of the Constitution where appropriate.*

**CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE I
NAME**

The official name under which this church is incorporated is The River Valley Alliance Church, Inc.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE I – NAME

NO BYLAW

**CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE II
RELATIONSHIP**

This church is connected with and subordinate to its parent religious organization, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, a Colorado nonprofit corporation. In consideration of the mutual benefits generated and derived from this relationship, and understanding that The Christian and Missionary Alliance is relying hereon in agreeing to initiate or continue such relationship, this church agrees to be subject to and abide by the terms and conditions of Article XVI hereof relating to the reversion of property of accredited churches.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE II – RELATIONSHIP

- A. *LAY DELEGATE(S) TO GENERAL COUNCIL: Pursuant to the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, lay delegates to General Council may be appointed for each General Council by the governance authority. The delegate(s) shall be reported to the proper authority upon request.*
- B. *LAY DELEGATE(S) TO DISTRICT CONFERENCE: Pursuant to the Uniform Constitution for Districts of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, lay delegates to District Conference shall be appointed for each District Conference by the governance authority. The delegate(s) shall be reported to the proper authority upon request.*
- C. *DISTRICT SUPPORT: The Church shall give to the District budget in accordance with the established formula as established in the District bylaws.*

**CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Qualifications.

- 1. Confession of faith in Jesus Christ and evidence of regeneration.
- 2. Belief in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; in the verbal inspiration of the Holy Scriptures as originally given; in the vicarious atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the eternal salvation of all who believe in Him and the eternal punishment of all who reject Him.
- 3. Acceptance of the doctrines of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King.

4. Full sympathy with the mission and core values of The Christian and Missionary Alliance and cooperation by systematic support of its work.
5. Such other qualifications for membership as may be stated in the bylaws.

Section 2. Removal. Persons may be removed from membership under one or more of the following circumstances:

1. Submission of a written letter of resignation to the elders of the church.
2. Failure to meet the qualifications of membership as stated above.
3. Disciplinary action taken under the Uniform Policy for Discipline, Restoration and Appeal of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

An appeal of decisions made to remove a person from membership for reasons of qualification or a disciplinary action may be submitted to the district superintendent within 30 days of the action.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

A. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:

1. *Applicants shall fill out the membership application form and then meet with the Committee on Membership to give their personal testimony of conversion and commitment to this church. The Committee on Membership shall then act upon the applications. Upon approval, applicants shall be publicly acknowledged at a regular service of the church.*
2. *All applicants will be provided with a copy of, and consent to being governed under the Constitution and Bylaws of River Valley. Further, they must affirm their willingness to subscribe to the Statements of the C&MA referenced in the "Application for Membership" and as found in the current edition of The Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. Such consent and affirmation exists when applicants place their signature on the application for membership. The application for membership shall reference all necessary requirements for membership and a copy of their signed application will be kept on file. The applicant will attend a required class where the C&MA doctrine is presented. Attendance to the membership class is required.*
3. *Although baptism by immersion shall not be a requirement for membership, the church recognizes the importance of baptism for the believer as a step of obedience to the Lord. Therefore, all applicants for membership are encouraged to prayerfully consider this step of obedience.*

B. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP:

1. Member: *Those considered to be members shall be committed to the programs of the church through regular attendance and support.*

2. *Honorary Members: An honorary membership list shall be maintained on church records. It shall contain the names of those members who are unable to actively participate in the ministry of the church, but who desire to maintain fellowship with the local church. Members included on this honorary list shall be considered members when they are present at meetings of the membership. Members on the honorary list who are not present shall not be considered when establishing a quorum.*
3. *Junior Members: Junior membership members shall be between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18). Consent of his or her parents or guardian shall be required. Upon reaching the age of eighteen (18), junior members will become members.*

C. *MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT:*

1. *The Committee on Membership shall manage the membership lists.*
2. *The Committee on Membership shall be the Elder Board.*
3. *The Committee on Membership shall review the membership roll annually and present to the governance authority a current membership list prior to the annual meeting.*
4. *Upon request, and with the approval of the Committee on Membership, members in good standing may be granted letters of transfer to other recognized evangelical bodies.*
5. *A member will be removed from membership upon their written request.*
6. *Members will be removed from membership by a 2/3 vote of the Committee on Membership for violations, including but not limited to:*
 - i. *Lack of loyalty: lack of attendance, involvement, or communication with River Valley for a period of 9 months or longer; or becoming a member of another church*
 - ii. *Sowing discord*
 - iii. *Unrepentant sinful behavior*
 - iv. *Taking legal action against the church*
7. *Those removed from membership shall receive written communication from the Committee on Membership.*

CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE IV ORDINANCES

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are recognized as the two ordinances of the church.

Believers' baptism by immersion is taught and practiced as the scriptural mode. The pastor or other elders shall oversee baptism. They shall provide the instruction about baptism and shall administer the baptisms themselves or choose other spiritually respected people to do these ministries.

The Lord's Supper is administered regularly. The pastor or other elders shall oversee Communion. They shall provide the instruction about Communion and shall administer the Communion themselves or choose other spiritually respected people to do these ministries.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE IV – ORDINANCES

NO BYLAW

CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE V GOVERNMENT

There shall be an annual meeting of the members of this church to be held at a time specified in the bylaws at which time the members shall receive reports of ministries, including audited reports of the treasurers, and shall elect church officers, elders, and members of the governance authority. Additional ministry positions shall be filled as specified in the local church bylaws. The governance authority, as specified in the local church bylaws, shall conduct the affairs of the church between annual meetings and shall be amenable to the membership and the district superintendent as constitutionally defined. Other meetings of the members may be called by proper notice to the membership as specified in the bylaws. On general church matters in which no legal questions are involved, it is understood that all members in good and regular standing who have reached the age of 16 years are entitled to vote, but in matters involving titles of property or legal procedure, the laws of the state determine the age at which members are eligible to vote.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE V – GOVERNMENT

A. ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

- 1. The annual meeting of the members shall be held each year on or about the fourth (4th) Sunday of January. The exact date and time will be set by the governance authority. Notice of it shall be placed in the bulletin and/or other appropriate media for at least two consecutive weeks prior to the date of the meeting.*

2. *Those to be elected at the annual meeting shall be any open positions on the governance authority: trustee, deacon, and deaconess positions (see Article XV). Other positions shall be determined and appointed by the governance authority as needed.*
- B. *SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS: When determined appropriate by the governance authority, special meetings of the members may be called. Notice of it shall be placed in the bulletin and/or other appropriate media for at least two consecutive weeks prior to the date of the meeting.*
- C. *AUTHORITY: The current Roberts Rules of Order shall govern all matters of church business.*
- D. *QUORUM:*
1. *GENERAL MATTERS: Thirty-three percent of the members and junior members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the members for the conduct of all general matters in which no legal questions are involved.*
 2. *CORPORATE MATTERS: The majority of the members (over the age of eighteen (18) years) shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of all corporate business involving titles of property, legal procedure, mortgages, or encumbrances of property.*
- E. *FISCAL YEAR: The fiscal year shall be January 1st through December 31st.*

CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE VI GOVERNANCE AUTHORITY

Section 1. General. Each local church shall structure its governance authority in accordance with the governing documents of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, the responsibilities of elders as defined in Article X, Section 1, the bylaws of the district, and the laws of the state in which the church is located. The members of the governance authority shall satisfy the scriptural standards for church leadership and shall be members of this church.

The senior pastor shall be chairman or, at his request, the governance authority shall elect an elder as chairman. An elder also shall be elected as vice chairman. Meetings shall be held for prayer and business, and abbreviated minutes shall be reported to the church as the church may decide. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or by written request of one-half of the governance authority membership. All officers, committees, and organizations except the Nominating Committee are amenable to the collective oversight of the elders.

Section 2. Removal. In consultation with the district superintendent and the senior pastor, any officer or auxiliary official, except licensed pastoral staff, of this church, whether elected at the church annual meeting or appointed by the governance authority, or any individual member of the governance authority, may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the governance authority and the approval of the district superintendent if, in the judgment of the governance authority, the best interests of this church will be served thereby.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE VI – CHURCH GOVERNANCE AUTHORITY

- A. *FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: Meetings of the governance authority shall be held monthly.*
- B. *MINUTES: All minutes will conform to Roberts Rules of Order.*
- C. *NAME: The governance authority of the River Valley Alliance Church shall be known as the Governing Board.*
- D. *NUMBER: The number serving as the Governing Board shall be eleven, including the Senior Pastor.*
- E. *COMPOSITION: The Governing Board shall consist of the Senior Pastor, five Elders, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, the Chairman of the Trustees, and the Chairman of the Service and Benevolence Committee.*
- F. *QUALIFICATIONS: The qualifications for Elders are set out in 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:6-9 and I Peter 5:1-2. Other members of the Governing Board are expected to maintain a lifestyle in keeping with the spirit and intent of these same references (excluding spiritual leadership). Further, each must be a member of this church.*
 - 1. *DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE: Past failures in marriage shall not, in and of themselves, disqualify a person for church leadership as long as candidate now demonstrates an attitude of repentance for past failures and confesses an understanding and conviction of the Biblical position on marriage, divorce and remarriage as reflected in the entire statement included in the current C&MA manual. In this allowance we affirm the restorative grace of God and the integrity and sanctity of marriage.*
- G. *DUTIES: The duties of leaders are set forth in the Constitution, these bylaws, and position descriptions adopted by the Governing Board.*
- H. *QUORUM: A quorum for the legal conduct of business shall be a majority of the board membership.*
- I. *RELATIONSHIP TO CORPORATION: The Governing Board and the Board of Directors of this church are one and the same.*
- J. *VACANCIES: Any and all vacancies which may occur during the year shall be filled by the Governing Board if, in the judgment of the board, it is advisable to do so.*
- K. *APPOINTMENTS BY THE BOARD:*
 - 1. *The Governing Board shall appoint such positions and/or committees that it may deem necessary. Such appointments shall not last beyond the next annual meeting.*
 - 2. *The Governing Board may delegate to the Elders, the Service and Benevolence, or Trustees the authority to make appointments.*

3. *The Governing Board shall appoint a Missions Committee annually.*

L. POWERS OF THE BOARD:

1. *When calling a pastor, a 2/3 majority vote of the Governing Board shall be required.*
2. *The Governing Board shall have power to hire or appoint such agents as they may deem necessary for the transaction of the church's business and ministry. Any such agent may be removed by the Governing Board whenever, in the judgment of the board, the interests of the church shall be served thereby.*
3. *At least four (4) months prior to the annual meeting of members, the Governing Board shall determine the number of elders, deacons, trustees and deaconesses to be elected.*

M. INDEMNIFICATION: *With approval of the Governing Board, its members shall be indemnified.*

**CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE VII
OFFICERS**

The officers shall be members of this church and shall satisfy the scriptural standards for church leadership. They shall consist of the following who, with the exception of the senior pastor, shall be elected at the annual meeting of the church: senior pastor, secretary, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and such other officers as may be designated in the church bylaws or in the state law.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

- A. **VACANCIES:** *Any and all vacancies that may occur throughout the year shall be filled by the Governing Board if, in the judgment of the board, it is advisable to do so.*
- B. **LEGAL AUTHORITY:** *Only the church officers, with the approval of the Governing Board, may encumber or legally bind the church.*

**CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE VIII
PASTORAL STAFF**

The governance authority shall not give consideration to any candidate for the pastoral staff without the approval of the district superintendent. Pastoral staff members shall be called by the governance authority and appointed by the district superintendent. The district superintendent shall suggest to the governance authority the names of such workers as in his judgment have proper qualifications for pastoral staff. Upon appointment by the district superintendent, a pastoral staff member and spouse become members of this church. Pastoral staff include all those whose position calls for licensing as an "official worker," as defined in the General Regulations in the *Manual of The Christian and Missionary Alliance*.

Any member of the pastoral staff may resign from this church by giving due notice of this intention to the district superintendent and the governance authority. The governance authority may, in conjunction with the district superintendent, ask for the resignation of any member of the pastoral staff. Before such action is taken, the governance authority and that member shall follow the guidelines as prescribed by the district superintendent. The district superintendent, with the approval of the District Executive Committee, shall have the authority to remove or transfer a member of the pastoral staff when the governance authority is in disagreement or whenever circumstances make such removal or transfer advisable.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE VIII – PASTORAL STAFF

STAFF SALARIES AND BENEFITS: Staff salaries and benefits shall be determined by the Compensation Committee and are included in the budget approved by the congregation at the annual meeting.

CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE IX DUTIES OF CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 1. Senior Pastor. The senior pastor shall have oversight of this church. He shall be chairman of the governance authority except as he may choose to proceed according to the provisions in Article VI. He shall preside at all regular or special meetings of the church membership. He is a member ex officio of all church committees and organizations. When the membership has no pastor, the chairman or vice chairman of the governance authority shall have oversight of the church in conjunction with the district superintendent. The senior pastor shall be the president of this church where such office is required by law.

Section 2. Secretary. The secretary shall keep the minutes of membership meetings and conduct the correspondence of this church as directed by the governance authority. The secretary shall attend and keep minutes of other meetings as specified in the local church bylaws.

Section 3. Treasurer. The treasurer shall receive all monies of this church and shall be responsible for the payment of all bills on the order of the governance authority as specified by the local church bylaws, keeping proper book records of all transactions, and filing canceled vouchers and receipts for payments made. The governance authority shall determine where funds of this church shall be kept. No offerings shall be solicited from the membership except upon approval of the governance authority.

Section 4. Missionary Treasurer. When required by local church bylaws, the missionary treasurer shall account for all missionary monies and oversee the forwarding of the same to the treasurer of The Christian and Missionary Alliance on or before the tenth of the following month.

Section 5. Assistant Treasurer. The assistant treasurer shall, with another person or persons appointed by the governance authority, be responsible to count all monies and keep a separate record of all receipts. The assistant treasurer may be empowered to issue receipts to the donors.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE IX – DUTIES OF CHURCH OFFICERS

- A. *SECRETARY: The Secretary shall attend and keep the minutes of all membership meetings and Governing Board meetings.*
- B. *TREASURER: The Treasurer has general oversight of all financial matters in the church.*
- C. *ASSISTANT TREASURER: The Assistant Treasurer shall provide separate accountability to the Governing Board. The Assistant Treasurer is not subordinate to the Treasurer in matters of dual control.*
- D. *TERM OF OFFICE: No member may serve more than six consecutive years in any individual or combined church officer position.*
- E. *POSITION DESCRIPTIONS: The Governing Board shall issue individual position descriptions regarding the above positions. Such position descriptions shall define responsibilities, delegate authority and specify accountability and are considered directive in nature.*
- F. *OFFERINGS: Offerings taken during regular church functions (e.g., worship service, Sunday school) maintain continuous approval from the Governing Board. Special offerings for the benefit of a specific person(s) or offerings that are not regularly occurring (i.e., love offerings) must be approved by the Governing Board or Senior Pastor prior to collection.*

CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE X COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. Elders. The call of Christ the Chief Shepherd to men to serve as elders is both discerned and confirmed by the church membership. Elders shall therefore be male members of this church and shall be elected as specified in the church bylaws. The pastor and the other elders are the highest level of servant leadership in the church. As undershepherds, elders shall serve with the senior pastor to oversee both the temporal and spiritual affairs of the local church in order to accomplish Christ's mission. They shall constitute the Committee on Membership. They shall be the Committee on Discipline in accordance with the Uniform Policy on Discipline, Restoration, and Appeal of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. All officers, committees, and organizations except the Nominating Committee are amenable to the collective oversight of the elders through the governance authority.

Section 2. Deacons. The deacons shall be members of this church and shall be appointed or elected as specified in the local church bylaws. The deacons shall have

charge of those ministries and charities of the church as specified in the bylaws, receive offerings for such purposes and dispense the same, and make monthly reports as directed. Where there are no deacons, the governance authority shall assume responsibility for their ministries until such are elected or appointed.

Section 3. Deaconesses. Deaconesses shall be members of this church and shall be appointed or elected as specified in the local church bylaws. The deaconesses shall have charge of those ministries as specified in the bylaws. Where there are no deaconesses, the governance authority shall assume responsibility for their ministries until such are elected or appointed.

Section 4. Trustees. The trustees shall be members of this church and may be appointed or elected as specified in the local church bylaws. Trustees shall have charge of those ministries and duties as specified in the bylaws, or the laws of the state in which the church is located. Where there are no trustees, the governance authority shall assume responsibility for those ministries and duties until such are elected or appointed.

Section 5. Great Commission Women. Local church Great Commission Women may be established. They shall be organized according to the Great Commission Women policies as contained in the *CM Handbook*.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- A. *ELDERS: The Elders shall consist of at least five members. Each elder shall serve a three (3) year term with at least one (1) to be elected each year. An Elder may not serve longer than six consecutive years (excluding time filling a vacancy). If there are more than 5 elders the elder board will select members for the Governing Board.*
- B. *DEACONS: Deacons are male members of the Service and Benevolence Committee. With the Deaconesses, the Service and Benevolence Committee shall focus on practical needs of the church as in keeping with Acts 6:1-4. The Deacons shall consist of at least three members. Each Deacon shall serve a three (3) year term with at least one (1) to be elected each year. A Deacon may not serve longer than six consecutive years (excluding time filling a vacancy).*
- C. *DEACONESSES: Deaconesses are female members of the Service and Benevolence Committee. With the Deacons, the Service and Benevolence Committee shall focus on practical needs of the church as in keeping with Acts 6:1-4. The Deaconesses shall consist of at least three members. Each Deaconess shall serve a three (3) year term with at least one (1) to be elected each year. A Deaconess may not serve longer than six consecutive years (excluding time filling a vacancy).*
- D. *TRUSTEES: The duties of Trustees focus on practical physical needs of the church's properties. The Trustees shall consist of at least five members. Each Trustee shall serve a three (3) year term with at least one (1) to be elected each year. A Trustee may not serve longer than six consecutive years (excluding time filling a vacancy).*
- E. *MISSIONS COMMITTEE: The Governing Board shall appoint a Missions Committee annually comprised of a minimum of four (4) members.*

- F. *COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: The Compensation Committee is an ad hoc committee that shall consist of all members of the Governing Board excluding the Senior Pastor and any other paid staff, per the guidelines as established in the River Valley Employee Handbook.*
- G. *POSITION DESCRIPTIONS: The Governing Board shall issue individual position descriptions for these and any other appointed or elected position in the church. Such position descriptions shall define responsibilities, delegate authority and specify accountability and are considered directive in nature.*
- H. *VACANCIES: Vacancies that may occur shall be filled by the Governing Board if, in the judgment of the board, it is advisable to do so.*
- I. *CHAIR: The members of each committee, with the exception of the Governing Board, shall elect from their own membership a chair at their first meeting following the annual meeting.*
- J. *TERM OF OFFICE: All terms of office begin the first of the month, following the annual meeting.*

CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE XI MISSIONS MOBILIZATION

The church shall participate in the worldwide missions and church planting ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, and the support of the Great Commission Fund. The Governance Authority shall specify the means by which it purposes to mobilize members' involvement, including prayer, recruitment of men and women for vocational ministry both at home and abroad. A Missions Conference or congregation-wide event for missions mobilization shall be held each year.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE XI – MISSIONS MOBILIZATION

NO BYLAW

CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE XII DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES

A major ministry of this church shall be making disciples of Jesus Christ. The discipling process includes evangelism, building up believers, equipping workers, and multiplying leaders, among adults, youth, and children. The Governance Authority shall specify how discipling is to be pursued. The purpose of discipling ministries is to bring people to a saving knowledge of Christ, teach biblical principles emphasizing missions and the centrality of Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King, and equip people for evangelism and Christian service.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE XII – DISCIPLEMAKING MINISTRIES

- A. *The Governing Board shall adopt and maintain a document specifying oversight and direction of the operation of the Disciplemaking Ministries.*
- B. *There will be monthly reporting and communication to the Governing Board regarding the Disciplemaking Ministry activity and plans.*

CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE XIII PROPERTY AND RECORDS

Section 1. Property. This church may acquire, own, dispose of, improve, encumber, and convey property, real and personal, for church purposes, in conformity with the laws of the state where the property is situated.

Real property may be purchased, sold, conveyed, exchanged, mortgaged, or encumbered only by order of the membership through the governance authority in consultation with the district superintendent. In states where trustees are required, the order of the membership shall proceed through them.

Section 2. Records. The official records of all officers of the church and all its departments are the property of the church. In the event of the death or resignation of the incumbent or upon the election of his successor, the current records of the office shall be passed on to the newly elected officer. All records other than current shall be kept in a secure repository selected by the governance authority.

Section 3. Audit. All financial records shall be examined annually or at more frequent intervals on order of the governance authority. At least three persons, none of whom is a financial officer or a church staff member, shall be appointed by the governance authority to conduct the examination. They shall follow procedures set forth in the current edition of the *Manual for Alliance Church Treasurers (and Pastors)*. The governance authority shall authorize actions to conform with additional audit standards that may be required by the jurisdiction in which the church is located.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE XIII – PROPERTY AND RECORDS

- A. *The Governing Board shall have power and authority to borrow money whenever, in the discretion of the Board, the exercise of said power is required in the general interests of this church and in such cases the Governing Board may authorize the proper officers of this church to make, execute, and deliver in the name and on behalf of this church such notes, bonds and other evidence of indebtedness as said board shall deem proper.*
- B. *When the borrowing of money involves the mortgage or encumbrance of church property, a vote of the active membership over the age of eighteen (18) years shall be taken (General Constitution, Property, and Current Manual).*

- C. *The Governing Board and proper officers of the church may be granted authority to encumber, sell, or buy property by a ¾ vote of the church’s membership present at a duly called meeting of corporate matters.*
- D. *SECURITIES AND REAL PROPERTY: All securities (including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.), real, or personal property shall be sold as soon as practicable, unless the Governing Board wishes to hold the aforementioned. In which case, the Governing Board shall create and actively maintain an investment policy statement and a committee to monitor such policy.*
- E. *DESIGNATED DONATIONS: All gifts that are received by River Valley with a designated use are considered advisory only. As such, the church may use the donation for alternative use within its stated mission.*
- F. *OPEN RECORDS: The River Valley Alliance Church, Inc. shall maintain an open records policy for members having a proper purpose and at a reasonable time. However, members’ right to access such records shall not include records containing personal information of a private nature about any specific individual. Additional limitations include, but may not be limited to, ministerial, credential and personnel files, disciplinary records, individual giving, compensation records, or other personal identifiable information (PII).*

**CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE XIV
NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

A Nominating Committee shall consist of the senior pastor, two members from the church membership, selected by, but not necessarily from the governance authority, and two elected from the church membership in a manner stipulated by the local church bylaws, at least one month prior to the annual meeting.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE XIV – NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- A. *The Nominating Committee shall be established at least three months prior to each annual meeting of the church. They shall elect a chairman of their own members.*

**CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE XV
ELECTIONS**

In consideration of elections, the Nominating Committee shall present at least one name for each office to be filled. Other nominations may be made by the membership as stipulated in the church bylaws. The officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting. Where only one name is presented, the ballot may be waived by unanimous vote.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE XV – ELECTIONS

- A. *The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of candidates for the various offices to be elected at the annual meeting and obtain their consent to serve if elected. The final report of this committee*

shall be posted conspicuously on the church bulletin board and other appropriate media at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

B. NOMINATIONS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP: Any member may nominate any other member for an elected position according to the following:

- 1. The member wishing to place someone in nomination must contact and obtain permission from the person to be nominated and receive assurance that the person will allow his/her name to be considered.*
- 2. The member wishing to place the name in nomination will then submit the name to the Nominating Committee, in writing, by November 30th.*
- 3. The Nominating Committee, by majority vote, will satisfy itself that the person to be nominated meets the criteria of the Constitution and Bylaws for holding elected office.*

C. OFFICIAL BALLOT:

- 1. Once the Nominating Committee has completed its work and rendered its report, an OFFICIAL BALLOT will be prepared for use at the annual meeting. The Official Ballot will contain the candidates as presented for each position by the Nominating Committee.*
- 2. There will be no nominations received from the floor during the election process.*

D. PLURALITY: Where required, the election shall be based on the rule of plurality.

CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE XVI REVERSION OF PROPERTY

Recognizing the purpose of the members of this congregation to support both the doctrines and the mission of The Christian and Missionary Alliance through the contribution of their tithes, offerings, and special gifts, and to ensure that the future use of such assets and real property as this church may from time to time acquire shall not be diverted from this purpose, this church adopts the following property reversion clause.

- 1. Property Reversion Events.** Any of the following shall constitute a “property reversion event:”
 - a. the decision or action of this church to disaffiliate or otherwise separate itself from The Christian and Missionary Alliance without the prior written approval of such decision or action by the District Executive Committee (or its equivalent) of the district in which this church is located,
 - b. the failure for any reason of this church to be subject to or abide by any of the purposes, usages, doctrines, or teachings of The Christian and Missionary Alliance,

- c. The failure for any reason of this church to qualify as an “accredited church” of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (as such term is defined in the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance), or
 - d. the termination of this church’s existence for any reason.
2. **Determination of a Property Reversion Event.** The determination of whether a property reversion event has occurred shall be considered and decided by the District Executive Committee (or its equivalent) of the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located in accordance with procedures established from time to time by the Board of Directors of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. The decision of such District Executive Committee (or its equivalent) shall be final and binding on The Christian and Missionary Alliance, the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located, and this church, and may not be challenged by any party in the absence of fraud, collusion, or arbitrariness. Should any party choose to challenge a decision based on fraud, collusion, or arbitrariness, such appeal shall only be made to the Board of Directors of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. In order to expedite review of such appeals, the Board of Directors may establish a Board of Directors committee of not less than five Board members for the purpose of handling such appeals. The decision of the Board of Directors or its committee shall be final and binding on all parties.
3. **Consequences of a Property Reversion Event.** Upon the occurrence of a property reversion event as determined in accordance with paragraph 2 above, legal title to all real and personal property (tangible and intangible), appurtenances, fixtures, and effects of whatever type then owned, held, or used by this church, without regard to how or from whom acquired, shall, upon the demand of the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located, revert to and become the property of such district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. During the period of time between the occurrence of the property reversion event and the complete and final transfer of legal title to the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located, this church shall hold such property in trust for such district to be used exclusively to further the purposes, usages, doctrines, and teachings of The Christian and Missionary Alliance.
4. **Waiver of Certain Property Reversion Events.** In the event of a property reversion event attributable to differences in doctrine between this church and The Christian and Missionary Alliance, the property reversion process set forth above may be waived upon the approval of:
 - a. at least two-thirds of the members in good standing of this church,
 - b. the District Executive Committee (or its equivalent) of the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church is located, and
 - c. Church Ministries of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

5. **Exclusion of Certain Property.** Paragraph 3 above shall not apply to any real or personal property which (i) this church owned prior to its becoming an accredited church, and (ii) is expressly identified as property not subject to paragraph 3 above in a written agreement entered into in connection with such accreditation between this church and the district of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in which this church was located upon its accreditation. The exclusion of property pursuant to this paragraph 5, and the agreement described in the preceding sentence, shall (1) terminate ten (10) years after this church's accreditation, and (2) not apply to any church that was in developing status prior to its accreditation.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE XVI – REVERSION OF PROPERTY

NO BYLAW

**CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE XVII
BYLAWS**

Church bylaws not in conflict with this Constitution, the provisions of the Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, the bylaws of the district within which the church is located, or the laws of the state are required and will be adopted by a duly called meeting of the church. As a minimum, the church bylaws will include provisions for the composition and name of its governance authority that is in keeping with Article VI above. A copy of such bylaws shall be filed with the district superintendent.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE XVII – BYLAWS

- A. *These bylaws were approved by the congregation on January 29th 2017 and filed with the district superintendent.*

**CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE XVIII
AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be amended only by the General Council of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in accordance with the provisions of Section 10.2 of the Amended and Restated Constitution and Bylaws of The Christian and Missionary Alliance as applied to the Uniform Constitution for Accredited Churches.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE XVIII – AMENDMENTS

- A. *BYLAW AMENDMENTS: These bylaws may be amended by 2/3 of the votes cast at any official meeting of the membership on corporate matters.*
- B. *BYLAW COMMITTEE: A bylaw committee may be appointed by the Governing Board from the membership of the church for the purpose of periodic review and to provide recommended revisions of the bylaws. Members should be selected on the basis of their familiarity with the bylaws and their editorial skills.*

- C. *NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS: The bylaws committee shall have the power to recommend such revisions to these bylaws as are, in its judgment, non-substantive modifications or clarifications, reorganization or renumbering, or revisions made necessary because of punctuation, spelling, or other errors of grammar or expression. Such revisions recommended by the bylaw committee must be approved by the Governing Board and shall be effective immediately. The changes shall be permanent when approved at a meeting of the membership for general matters.*

CONSTITUTION (C&MA) - ARTICLE XIX CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW

In cases where any provision of this Constitution may not conform to state laws, the district concerned shall be authorized to make such adjustments as necessary in counsel with the vice president for Church Ministries of The Christian and Missionary Alliance so as to conform to such laws.

BYLAW (RVAC) - ARTICLE XIX – CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW

- A. *SEVERABILITY: The invalidity of any provision of these bylaws shall not affect the other provisions hereof, and in such event these Bylaws shall be construed in all respects as if such invalid provisions were omitted.*