

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MODEL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY POLICY OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

The *Christian Community Policy* has been prepared as a model policy to describe how a church or other entity's activities, relationships, and operational policies – including the use of facilities – reflect the C&MA's sincerely held religious beliefs. For an entity other than a local church, a version is available by contacting [CORPSEC@cmalliance.org](mailto:CORPSEC@cmalliance.org).

This *Christian Community Policy* is intended to replace the former *Regarding the Faith Community and Mission* policy. A church or entity that has already adopted the former policy may adopt the newer updated version through its governance authority (e.g. elder board, governing board, etc.).

The purpose of this model policy is to provide protection for C&MA churches, districts, and other C&MA entities in face of our country's quickly changing legal, cultural, and moral standards. Specifically, the policy is designed to express the doctrinal relationship between the church's beliefs and standards and those of the denomination as a whole. If challenged, this policy will enhance the denomination's ability to support the local church.

### Use of church facilities.

Recent legal developments have held that many types of facilities must not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, same sex marriage, gender identity, and other protected classes. This policy articulates the C&MA's sincerely held long-standing beliefs and standards related to family, marriage, and gender roles, and provides guidelines to ensure that the use of church facilities is consistent with the expression of these beliefs. Connecting facility use guidelines to the C&MA's beliefs will help protect the local church from legal liability based upon claims of discrimination against legally protected classes.

### Provision of health care plans.

Evangelical Christian churches face increasing pressure to provide health insurance that covers procedures that violate our belief in the sanctity of life. These procedures may include abortion, abortion-inducing drugs and euthanasia. By stating that the church (or other entity) will not, for religious reasons, provide a health care benefit plan that funds these procedures and drugs, the policy protects the church against government requirements to help facilitate acts that violate our biblical beliefs.

- This policy only relates to plans provided by a church (or other entity). The policy does not prohibit participation by church employees in other insurance plans.
- The C&MA health insurance plans are consistent with this policy since they do not provide these procedures or drugs.
- Other than the C&MA plan and some other denominational group plans, very few health insurance plans will be consistent with this policy.

If a church is willing to provide a health plan that covers abortions or abortion-inducing drugs, then the church should delete the second paragraph under the heading *Sanctity of Life*, in Section IV, C.

### Modifications.

Any other modifications should be made only after consulting with the Church Ministries office and the C&MA General Counsel.