



The Constitution of the Christadelphian Bible Mission of the Americas

- I. The Christadelphian Bible Mission of the Americas is a non-profit organization sponsored by the Christadelphian ecclesias of the United States and Canada for the purpose of preaching the Truth of God's Word generally in the countries located in North America (where not in conflict with existing ecclesias), Central America, South America and Caribbean islands. The Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith shall be the basis of all preaching efforts. All ecclesias participating in the following activities shall be in the Central Fellowship, meeting on the Birmingham Statement of Faith.

History:

- (1) Amendment IV – added wording relative to preaching efforts being done on the basis of the Birmingham amended statement of Faith – effective 1/1/72
 - (2) Amendment V – removed the northern countries of South America from the PCCBM area of responsibility – effective 3/22/74
 - (3) Amendment VII - Changed the name of the organization from Pacific Coast Christadelphian Bible Mission to North American Christadelphian Bible Mission – effective 10/1/84
 - (4) Amendment VIII - Removed the restriction of receiving support from only those ecclesias west of the Mississippi and removed United States, Canada and Japan from the area of responsibility, and added the States of Alaska and Hawaii to the area of responsibility – effective 1/1/85
 - (5) Amendment IX – Changed name to Christadelphian Bible Mission of the Americas – effective 4/1/85
 - (6) Amendment X – Change the area of responsibility to include all of North and South America and the Caribbean islands – effective 1/1/2000
- II. The Christadelphian Bible Mission of the Americas is an independent organization subject to the majority of the sponsoring ecclesias and will generally assume all responsibilities in the geographic area out lined above. Cooperation with the British Christadelphian Bible Mission will be complete in all matters, and advice will be sought of the C.B.M., so that the present contacts and efforts will continue without interruption.

- III. The preaching efforts shall consist of advertising, offers of literature, correspondence courses, study aids, the holding of public lectures, encouraging missionary efforts, forming ecclesias, and any related effort that may be determined by the Bible Mission Committee.
- IV. Ecclesias in the United States and Canada can become sponsoring ecclesias by endorsing this constitution. The sponsoring ecclesias will be expected to aid in the preaching efforts when requested and they are able to do so, and to contribute to the financial needs of the Bible Mission. A sponsoring ecclesia may withdraw support of the Committee, or its articles, by written notice to the committee and all sponsoring ecclesias, stating the reasons for withdrawal.
- V. The Bible Mission shall be administered by a committee of seven brethren selected from the membership of the sponsoring ecclesias, who shall be known as the Bible Mission committee. It shall be the responsibility of the Committee to direct all phases of the Bible Mission work.

History:

- (1) Amendment VI – Changed the number of brethren on the committee from five (5) to seven (7) – effective 1/1/78
 - (2) Amendment XII – Changed the number of brethren on the committee from seven (7) to seven (9) – effective 4/1/11
- VI. The committee member positions shall be filled, Lord willing, in the following manner:
 - A. Nomination ballots shall be distributed to the sponsoring ecclesias as of November first, and returned by November twenty-first. Each sponsoring ecclesia may nominate as many brethren as there are current vacancies on the committee. The nominees for the Bible Mission should be limited to those who are most able to carry out the purpose of the Bible Mission and the duties of the Committee as described in the Constitution.
 - B. Nominees shall have the opportunity to accept or reject any nomination in writing.
 - C. Each sponsoring ecclesia shall receive a ballot as of December seventh, to be returned by December twenty-eighth, listing all accepting nominees, and may vote for as many brethren as there are vacancies on the Committee. Sponsoring ecclesias will use their own judgment in voting for nominees not personally known to them, and may abstain, or vote for fewer brethren than there are vacancies.

- D. The term of office of the Committee shall be two (2) calendar years, except when the number of vacancies is five or more, the Committee member elected to the sixth through ninth places shall serve for only one year.

Note: Housekeeping changes required by Amendments V and XII to Article V

- E. Unexpired terms caused by death, resignation, or dis-fellowship shall be filled until the next election by appointment of the remaining Committee members.
- F. The nomination and election ballots shall be counted and certified in the presence of two committee members appointed by the Committee for the purpose.
- G. The elected Committee members and the sponsoring ecclesias shall be notified of the election results by January fifteenth.

VII. The Committee members shall, Lord willing:

- A. Adopt by-laws required for governing the work of the Bible Mission.
- B. Prepare and publish for the sponsoring ecclesias as of December thirty-first (31st) of each year, an annual report of activities and a financial report properly audited.
- C. Prepare and publish for the sponsoring ecclesias each year, plans and an associated budget for the forthcoming year.
Note: Housekeeping changes to conform with actual practice
- D. Appoint their own officers
- E. Appoint sub-committees and qualified specialists as required. Said appointees shall have voting privileges for the duration of their appointment
- F. Hold Committee meetings at least quarterly.
- G. Keep minutes of all meetings as a permanent record.

- H. Be responsible for handling all monies of the Bible Mission.
- I. Make appointments for foreign missionary work.
- J. Have discretionary power in the support of missionary work.

History:

- (1) Amendment III – Allowed for appointees to subcommittees and specialists to have voting privileges – effective 1/1/71
 - (2) Amendment XI – removed requirement that Committee members be able to attend all meetings as modern telecommunications make this requirement unnecessary (formerly VII – G). – effective 1/1/200. Subsequent requirements lettered.
- VIII. Financing shall be by voluntary contributions of sponsoring ecclesias and any others who so desire.
- IX. This constitution may be amended by the sponsoring ecclesias. A “Yes” vote by the majority of the sponsoring ecclesias shall be necessary for the passage of the amendment. The Bible Mission Committee may make recommendations to the sponsoring ecclesias relative to the amendment.

AMENDMENTS

- I. The assets of the Christadelphian Bible Mission of the Americas are irrevocably dedicated to charitable, religious and educational purposes, and upon dissolution, abandonment of this association, the assets, if any, shall not inure to the benefit of any private individual or member, and will be distributed to an organization which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable or religious purposes and which is exempt from Federal income tax.
- II. The association is not empowered to engage in, otherwise than as an insubstantial part of its activities, activities which in themselves are not a furtherance of one or more of the purposes specified in section 501 © (3) of the Revenue Code.
- III. That Article VII, section E, be changed to read: "Appoint sub-committee and qualified specialists as required. Said appointees shall have voting privileges for the duration of their appointment."
- IV. That Article I be changed to read: "The North American Christadelphian Bible Mission is a non-profit organization sponsored by the Christadelphian ecclesias on the west coast of the United States and western provinces of Canada for the purpose of preaching the Truth of God's Word generally in the countries of Mexico, Central America, the northern countries of South America, Canada, the United States and Japan. The Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith shall be the basis of all preaching efforts. All ecclesias participating in the following activities shall be in the Central Fellowship, meeting on the Birmingham Statement of Faith.
- V. That Article I be changed to read: "The North American Christadelphian Bible Mission is a non-profit organization sponsored by the Christadelphian ecclesias on the west coast of the United States and the western provinces of Canada for the purpose of preaching the Truth of God's Word generally in the countries of Mexico, Central America, Canada, the United States and Japan. The Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith shall be the basis of all preaching efforts. All ecclesias participating in the following activities shall be in the Central Fellowship, meeting on the Birmingham Statement of Faith."
- VI. Article V be changed to read: "The Bible Mission shall be administered a committee of seven brethren selected from the membership of the sponsoring ecclesias, who shall be known as the Bible Mission committee. It shall be the responsibility of the Committee to direct all phases of the Bible Mission work."

- VII. The name of the Pacific Coast Christadelphian Bible Mission be changed to “The North American Christadelphian Bible Mission.”

- VIII. That Article I be changed to read: “The North American Christadelphian Bible Mission is a non-profit organization sponsored by the Christadelphian ecclesias of the United States and Canada for the purpose of preaching the Truth of God’s Word generally in the countries of Mexico, Central America, and the States of Alaska and Hawaii. The Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith shall be the basis of all preaching efforts. All ecclesias participating in the following activities shall be in the Central Fellowship, meeting on the Birmingham Statement of Faith.”

- IX. The name of the North American Christadelphian Bible Mission be changed to “The Christadelphian Bible Mission of the Americas.”

- X. Article I be changed to read: “The Christadelphian Bible Mission of the Americas is a non-profit organization sponsored by the Christadelphian ecclesias of the United States and Canada for the purpose of preaching the Truth of God’s Word generally in the countries located in North America (where not in conflict with existing ecclesias), Central America, South America and Caribbean islands. The Birmingham Amended Statement of Faith shall be the basis of all preaching efforts. All ecclesias participating in the following activities shall be in the Central Fellowship, meeting on the Birmingham Statement of Faith.

- XI. Article VII (G) eliminated.