



Camp Nakamun Bylaws Revision

1 Introduction

For nearly the whole of its existence, Camp Nakamun has only operated exclusively under a set of Bylaws. Last year, the District and the three C&MA camps in Alberta worked together to draft a unified Camp Constitution, like the LCC, but specific for camps. With support from the boards of each camp, the constitution was approved by DEXCOM, and came into force in April of 2025.

Because this new constitution provides new elements as well as drawing on commonalities from the Bylaws of each of the three camps, it has become necessary to 'clean-up' the current Bylaws to remove redundancies and prevent unintended conflicts or omissions.

Opening the Bylaws to adjustment also provided an opportunity to move forward with two other changes that have been discussed by the board and engaged members for some time:

- 1) **Modernization of membership:** For many years now, the camps membership has been defined as anyone who holds membership in a C&MA church within the WCD. This definition has, for the bulk of the camps history, been simple and effective. However, over the last 20 to 25 years, as the organization has grown and the board has transitioned from an operating board to a governance board, this definition has become outdated and its usefulness has waned. The primary problem is that because of the size and breadth of the WCD and changing dynamics between local churches and the Camp, the Camp cannot practically know who all its members are. Similarly, most of its members don't know they are members. This creates challenges in generating engagement, and governance risks because of the very large number of non-participating members.

The camp also seen significant interest from individuals desiring to remain or become involved in camp governance who once were but are no longer members at an WCD church (e.g. changed churches) or attend another Christian church, respectively. As a leadership team, we long to find a way to honor the support that this group of people have provided to the camp despite limits on their involvement.

- 2) **Clarify the Camp's Financial Authority:** The existing Bylaws were created at a time when the camp was a much smaller organization and are generally silent on many important matters pertaining to financial authority. In our current context, it is important for that there be clear and strong but practical guardrails in place to allow the camp



freedom to conduct its day-to-day operations while simultaneously and ensuring accountability to the camps members and the District on major initiatives or long-reaching decisions.

2 Summary of Proposed Changes

The changes to the Bylaws are significant and wide-ranging, therefore it was impractical to provide a 'marked-up' version. This summary is intended to draw attention to the three major objectives that drove the proposed edits and to help the reader in comparing the existing Bylaws to the proposed ones.

2.1 General Cleanup and Consolidation

Broad objectives: General clean-up of Bylaws to ensure they are clear, concise, and address the major concerns related to governance of the camp within the context created by the new Camp Constitution.

Specific adjustments:

- Remove clauses made redundant with adoption of the new Camp Constitution
 - Articles IV, V, and VIII (3)
- Consolidate "like" with "like":
 - Existing bylaws provide guidance on board composition, nominations, meetings and membership in mixed topic articles.
 - Proposed bylaws segregate these topics into independent articles that are easier to reference and more clearly defined.
- Elevate board member term limits from board policy to bylaws
- Elevate process for handling board vacancies from board policy to bylaws
- Simplify and clarify requirements for licensed workers on the board and on staff.
 - Add Language to manage risks of "out-of-order" in the event of a resignation.
- Move authority for setting the mission and vision from Bylaws (membership/district) to Policy (board), subject to constraints provided in the Constitution and elsewhere in Bylaws.
- Move guidance on financial records and approved funding sources from Bylaw to Board Policy (high-level constraints remain elsewhere in Constitution and Bylaws)

2.2 Modernization of membership

Broad Objective: Bring clarity to the requirements for membership at Camp Nakamun, enable mechanisms for the board, management, and individual members to have ready access to the full member list, and enable a pathway for a limited number of non-C&MA members to join.



Specific adjustments:

- Adjust terminology to align with defined terms in the Camp Constitution.
- Explicitly state qualifications for membership, while allowing the board flexibility in process for assessing eligibility of a candidate:
 - Ensures Board accountability to membership in whom is admitted
 - Provides conditions under which non-C&MA members can be admitted.
- Enshrine 'Alliance identity' by ensuring majority representation by C&MA members within camp membership and requiring a commitment by all members to submit to the C&MA in all areas of camp operations (spiritual and organizational).

In practise, this Bylaw will enable the board to proceed with a membership policy and procedure that:

- 1) Modifies WCD church member inclusion in Camp Membership from 'opt-out' (i.e. automatic) to 'opt-in'.
 - a. Note: the board is working on a 'grandfather' list to ensure actively participating members are not required to 'rejoin'.
- 2) Has two enrollment streams:
 - a. Members of a C&MA church – Admitted to membership following a simple expression of interest and validation of membership at their local C&MA church
 - b. Other Candidates – Admitted into membership following a more detailed membership process that mimics what is done by WCD churches. (e.g. application, interviews, etc.)

2.3 Clarification of Camp's Financial Authority

Broad objective: Existing Bylaws are generally silent on the camps financial authority. The amendments and additions to the proposed Bylaws will provide greater clarity on the camps financial authority, particularly with respect to short- and long-term liabilities (i.e. limits on financial decision making apart from the District).

Specific adjustments:

- Include explicit delegation of authority for approving and managing the annual budget to the membership and the board, respectively.
- Permit short-term liabilities incurred under the normal course of operation.
- Permit access to long-term financing with specific limits, beyond which District approval is required.
- Retain threshold for district approval of capital improvements.