# **Guiding Principles for Licensing with Respect to Cessationism**

The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada is committed to be a movement that is Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered, and Mission-focused.

These themes have their origins in the nineteenth century holiness movement, which called for a renewed work of the Holy Spirit to empower mission to those needing the witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ both in our nation and around the world.

With this history, the Alliance in Canada has endeavored to find unity in mission rather than detailed and lengthy doctrinal formulas and has benefitted from the diversity of thought and practice within the evangelical community.

Cessationism (the belief that certain spiritual gifts mentioned in Scripture ceased to be active in the Church after the apostolic age) is within the bounds of evangelical thought. Certain articulations of cessationism, however, are at odds with the Alliance commitment to being Spirit-empowered which is understood to embrace the full presence and all the gifts of the Spirit as they may be manifest in the Alliance movement and in Alliance churches.

In discerning suitability for ministry in the Alliance in Canada, willingness to fully embrace the mission to be Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered, and Mission-focused is essential. The licensing committee and the candidate will prayerfully consider the following expectations as central to the practice of ministry in The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada.

Licensed workers of The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada are expected to be characterized by all of the following:

1. Full adherence to and intention to incorporate the ministry of healing as defined in Article 8 of the Statement of Faith. “Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body. Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil as taught in the Scriptures are privileges for the Church in this present age.” (Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:13-16)
2. Openness to the Spirit’s sovereignty in bestowing spiritual gifts as and when he pleases, including the so-called ‘sign’ gifts (tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophecy, healing, miracles, etc.). (1 Cor 12:1-11)
3. Commitment to the life-giving ministry of the Holy Spirit without erecting barriers, theological or otherwise. (2 Cor. 3:6)
4. Willingness to work in full collegiality with Alliance workers and churches in the continued operation of the gifts of the Spirit in the present age.

I acknowledge that I have read and understood this document.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_