

Moving Forward Together: The 2026 Bylaws Revision

Biblical Alignment, Operational Clarity, and District Unity for the Vietnamese District of the C&MA

The Three Core Goals

Vietnamese District



Biblical Alignment

Grounding our leadership & governance in Scripture rather than cultural tradition.



Operational Clarity

Eliminating confusing language to protect pastors and prevent role conflicts



District Consistency

Unifying our churches while maintaining flexibility for local ministry.

The Biggest Change – A Healthier Governance Model

THE OLD WAY (2019): "The CEO Pastor & Admin Board"

Pastor held a tie-breaking vote and sole authority to call special meetings.



Creates an unhealthy power dynamic, isolates the Pastor, limits BCH's potentials, and lacks biblical plurality.

THE NEW TESTAMENT WAY (2026): "The Council of Elders"

Shared spiritual oversight, shared teaching, and mutual accountability



Protects the Leadership Team from burnout and false accusations; promotes unity and grounds church governance in the New Testament model.

What is NOT Changing?



We remain proudly C&MA

(The 2026 revision fully aligns with the 2025 National Manual).



We retain our Vietnamese Heritage

(Cultural ministries simply move to local church bylaws).



We reinvest in the Future

(Solid biblical foundation for the next generation).

Empowering People & Managing the Transition

Who does what, and how we will get there safely.

Two Distinct Biblical Offices

The Elders (Trưởng Lão)



Ruling & Teaching



Qualified men responsible for doctrinal guarding, spiritual oversight, and shepherding.

(1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)

The Deacons (Chấp Sự)



Serving & Caring



Qualified men and women responsible for mercy ministries, and church operations, freeing the Elders to pray and teach.

1 Tim. 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-7)

Affirming Women in Ministry

While the specific governing office of Elder is restricted to qualified men based on creation order, women are fully **affirmed and empowered** to serve in:



✓ Serving as Deaconesses (Nữ Chấp Sự)



✓ Discipleship & Teaching women/children



✓ Evangelism & Missions



✓ Worship & Prayer



✓ Administration & Counseling

The 4-Year Implementation Period

June 2026 (HD51)

Bylaws Officially Adopted

Identify

Train

Vet

Churches may keep their current Ban Chấp Hành (Executive Committee) while the Lead Pastor (as first Elder) identify, train, and vet qualified men to be affirmed by the congregation as the new Council of Elders.

June 2030 (HD55)

100% Complete across District

Affirm

Your Voice Matters

The HD51 Voting Process

April 15

Preview the DRAFT Bylaws, Attend monthly Zoom calls, and Submit your feedback.



May 15

Deadline to submit formal written amendments.



June 2026 (HD51)

Fair, structured voting. We will vote on the base requirements first, then the amendments, and then take a final vote on the complete package (requires a 2/3 supermajority).