

Regarding the Faith Community and Mission of

The Christian and Missionary Alliance and Beartown Road Alliance Church

I. Key Characteristics of the C&MA's Faith Community and Mission.

Beartown Road Alliance Church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (“BRAC”) is a community of faith that exists to exercise and express its biblical beliefs within the broader community of The Christian and Missionary Alliance (“C&MA”). These beliefs are grounded in a shared understanding of Holy Scripture including those beliefs and standards specifically addressed in the Manual of the Christian and Missionary Alliance (the “Manual”).

A. The C&MA's Biblical Beliefs.

BRAC is a community of faith based on its and the C&MA's biblical beliefs, which include the following.

1. *Statement of Faith.* The C&MA has adopted the statement of faith set forth in the Manual.
2. *Christian Mission and Values.* BRAC directs all of its activities in accordance with the following C&MA mission:

We desire to know Jesus Christ as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King and to complete His Great Commission. The Alliance will fulfill His Commission through

Evangelizing and discipling persons throughout the United States,

Incorporating them into Christ-centered, community-focused congregations, and

Mobilizing them for active involvement in a global effort designed to plant Great Commission churches among unengaged, unreached and responsive peoples worldwide.

In carrying out this mission, BRAC activities are conducted in accordance with the following biblical values:

Lost people matter to God. He wants them found. Luke 19:10

Prayer is the primary work of the people of God. Philippians 4:6-7

Everything we have belongs to God. We are His stewards. 1 Chronicles 29:14

Knowing and obeying God's Word is fundamental to all true success. Joshua 1:8

Completing the Great Commission will require the mobilization of every fully devoted disciple. Matthew 28:19

Without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we can accomplish nothing. 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

Achieving God's purposes means taking faith-filled risks. This always involves change. Hebrews 11:6

B. Representatives and Other Participants

BRAC's faith community is represented by all of BRAC's officers, directors, employees, licensed workers and volunteer leaders, each of whom serves BRAC's mission and is an integral part of the community (each such person is described for purposes of this Statement as a "BRAC representative"). The other community participants, including BRAC members and volunteers, contribute to BRAC's faith community, but they do not represent BRAC unless they are also employees or leaders or have been designated as such by the appropriate ecclesiastical authority.

C. Christian Exercise and Expression.

1. *As a Community.* The C&MA believes that the local church is the visible organized expression of the Body of Christ and that the local church finds broader meaning and outreach in fulfilling its biblical responsibilities within the life and witness of the denomination. In addition, those who participate in the life of the C&MA, including the BRAC representatives, are following the biblical command to live out their faith in community and association with other believers. Accordingly, BRAC is itself an exercise and expression of its biblical beliefs and standards.
2. *Through its Mission Based Activities.* The C&MA believes that all BRAC activities, including the responsibilities of every BRAC member and employee, should be rendered in service to God as a form of worship. Therefore, BRAC, as a community of faith, exercises and expresses its biblical beliefs in every activity, action, and responsibility.

II. Christian Community Standards for Ministry Activities.

A. General Standards.

BRAC shall engage in activities and use its facilities solely to exercise and express the biblical beliefs of BRAC and the C&MA and to further the mission of both. In furtherance of this mission, BRAC may provide services or goods to, and may allow use of its facilities by, other groups and persons who are not members or employees of BRAC, but no BRAC activity, nor any use of BRAC facilities by another group or person, may be conducted or permitted if BRAC determines that such activity or use expresses a message of support by BRAC for any view contrary to the biblical beliefs of BRAC and the C&MA.

B. Statements Addressing Specific Cultural Issues.

Marriage and Human Sexuality

BRAC subscribes to the biblical belief that God creates human beings in His image as two distinct genders, male and female, and that the intended gender identity of an individual is determined by such individual's biological sex at birth. These distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. BRAC applies this belief regarding gender identity in all policies and programs in BRAC's faith community.

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, BRAC will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. (Gen 2:18-25) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

Further, the pastors and staff of BRAC shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of BRAC shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10) We also believe, however, that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of BRAC.

Sanctity of Life

BRAC subscribes to the biblical belief that all life is sacred from conception to death and that individuals are known by God from before the foundation of the world. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. BRAC accordingly believes that no procedures should be performed for the primary objective of terminating a pregnancy and taking the life of an unborn child except in rarest of circumstances where other biblical and/or moral principles prevail, such as where it is medically impossible to save the life of both the mother and the child. Similarly, BRAC believes that no medical

procedure should be performed that takes the life of an individual prematurely. BRAC's beliefs further prohibit paying for or otherwise facilitating such procedures.

Religious Activities

In conformance with biblical beliefs and standards, BRAC engages solely in activities that further its faith mission. All such activities can and should be vehicles for spiritual growth. Therefore, BRAC considers all of its activities to be a form of religious worship.

With respect to restrictions that may be imposed on the use of funds or other benefits offered to BRAC, BRAC shall not agree to any restriction that would preclude BRAC from conducting any and all activities in furtherance of and in accordance with its religious beliefs.

C. Implementation.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of BRAC as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to BRAC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by BRAC in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by these standards (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22).

To the extent the BRAC Elder Board determines it to be necessary or advisable to further BRAC's mission or to cultivate BRAC's faith community, they may establish additional standards based on Holy Scripture and the beliefs and standards addressed in the Manual for the activities and programs conducted within the faith community or for BRAC representatives or other community participants. The determination as to whether any particular activity or use of BRAC facilities is not permitted under this Policy requires both spiritual discernment and an understanding of C&MA beliefs and standards which are applied to each particular circumstance. Such determination shall be made in conformance with this discernment and these beliefs and standards in the sole discretion of the BRAC Elder Board. With respect to uses by other groups or persons, BRAC may consider without limitation both the content of the proposed activities and whether the group or person is generally perceived by the public as advocating views contrary to the biblical beliefs of BRAC and the C&MA.

III. Community Standards for BRAC Representatives.

A. Roles and Expectations.

In response to God's calling on their lives, BRAC representatives exercise and express both their own and the C&MA's biblical beliefs and standards by working together to advance BRAC's faith mission. BRAC representatives are responsible for defining, cultivating, leading and/or representing BRAC's faith community as an expression and exercise of their and the C&MA's biblical beliefs and standards. Accordingly, each BRAC representative shall be expected to (i) model these biblical beliefs and standards for others, (ii) perform all of their responsibilities as a service to God and (iii) comply with the following obligations:

1. *Biblical Beliefs.* Each BRAC representative shall affirm their agreement with the C&MA's statement of faith and other biblical beliefs and shall not subscribe to or promote any religious beliefs inconsistent with these beliefs.
2. *Christian Conduct Standards.* BRAC representatives shall at all times (both during working and nonworking hours) endeavor to conduct themselves in a manner that affirms biblical standards of conduct in accordance with theirs and the C&MA's biblical beliefs.
3. *Distinctly Christian Activities.* Each BRAC representative shall be ready, willing and able to lead or contribute to distinctly Christian activities such as worship or prayer services.

B. Noncompliance by Representatives.

If any BRAC representative does not comply with the obligations set forth above, such representative shall have an obligation to disclose such noncompliance to BRAC. BRAC may determine whether such representative intends or is likely to continue in such noncompliance. If so, then BRAC may dismiss such representative from his or her position on the basis that such representative's noncompliance is inconsistent with and undermines the expression and exercise of the BRAC faith community. Such action may be taken in accordance with any applicable procedures in the Uniform Policy on Discipline, Restoration and Appeal.

C. Volunteers and Contract Workers.

Volunteers and contract workers are not considered to be representatives of BRAC's faith community unless they are serving in leadership positions. Nevertheless, when volunteers and certain contract workers as determined by BRAC, serve with BRAC, they shall be required to acknowledge that they understand and agree to support BRAC's mission and values. BRAC may give preference for such service to volunteers and contract workers who share its biblical beliefs.