

2018 Proposed Resolutions

to the General Conference

**Draft 12**

**Sunday, May 6, 2018**

*\*These are subject to change*

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**2018 General Conference**

**Victoria Conference Centre, Victoria BC**

**Proposed Resolutions**

*(As at Sunday, May 6, 2018)*

**Resolution #1 BY-LAW 8.1.1.1 NATIONAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

*WHEREAS the National Credentials Committee issues credentials once they have received recommendations regarding credentials from the district executive or the International Missions Operations Committee;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 8.1.1.1 be amended by addition as follows:*

* + 1. **NATIONAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**
       1. **PURPOSE**

This committee shall **receive recommendations regarding credentials from the district executive** **or International Missions Operations Committee,** issue all credentials of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and process exceptional credential matters recommended by the districts.

**Resolution #2 By-Law 8.4.3.2.1 Education standards committee**

*WHEREAS the Education Standards Committee discusses matters that affect ministerial credentials;*

*AND WHEREAS the General Superintendent and the General Secretary Treasurer form the National Credentials Committee and are responsible for issuing credentials;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 8.4.3.2.1 be amended for the inclusion as follows:*

**8.4.3.2 ORGANIZATION**

**8.4.3.2.1** The Education Standards Committee shall include **the General Superintendent, the General Secretary Treasurer,** the presidents and academic deans of the post-secondary institutions of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and the deans of the seminaries, and one member of the Superintendents Committee, as appointed by the Superintendents Committee.

**Resolution #3 By-Law 3.3.1.1 Nominations: Executive officers committee**

*WHEREAS the International Office may wish to use electronic nomination or electronic voting options for General Conferences;*

*AND WHEREAS the option to send information electronically is widely used;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 3.3.1.1 be amended as follows:*

**3.3 NOMINATIONS**

**3.3.1 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS COMMITTEE**

**3.3.1.1** A pre-conference nomination ballot for each executive officer position shall be ~~mailed~~ **sent** 90 days prior to General Conference to all members eligible to vote at General Conference, as described in Article 7, and to lay delegates who have been duly appointed and recorded with the office of the General Secretary Treasurer at least 90 days prior to General Conference, to be returned ~~postmarked~~ **date-stamped** no later than 60 days prior to Conference. The pre-conference nomination ballot shall be ~~mailed~~ **sent** together with a description of the qualifications, responsibilities and duties of the elected Executive Officers Committee.

*AND FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article 14 be amended as follows:*

**ARTICLE 14 AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the constitution may be made at any regularly called session of the General Conference, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted 90 days prior thereto, in writing, through the General Secretary Treasurer, to the General Executive. Notice of the public posting of proposed amendments on The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada web site shall be ~~mailed~~ **sent** to each member of the General Conference (Article 7) not later than 60 days prior to the General Conference. A ~~printed~~ copy will be ~~mailed~~ **sent** to any member of the General Conference upon request. Amendments to the constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.

*AND FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 12.8.1.4 (Meetings: District Conference) be amended as follows:*

**12.8.1.4** Notice of meeting shall contain the time and place of meeting and, in the case of special meetings, shall also contain a concise statement of the business to be dealt with at the meeting. Notices shall be ~~forwarded by ordinary post~~ **sent** to each member ~~at the member's last known address~~, and to the secretary of each assembly as recorded, for the time being, in the annual assembly questionnaire, not later than two months prior to the annual meeting, and not later than 10 days prior to the time of any special meeting.

**Resolution #4 by-law 9.3.2.2 and 9.3.3.3 bible colleges and seminaries**

*WHEREAS Bible Colleges and Seminaries are supported by one or more districts;*

*AND WHEREAS Boards of Governors are required to obtain prior approval from supporting district conferences before implementing major building projects and significant new programs;*

*AND WHEREAS it may be more practical for Bible Colleges and Seminaries, when implementing major building projects and significant new programs, to be directed by the decision of the supporting district executives or other appropriate body rather than one or more district conferences;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 9.3.2.2 (Bible Colleges) and By-Law 9.3.3.3 (Seminaries) be amended as follows:*

**9.3.2.2**  The board of governors shall obtain prior approval from supporting district**s, as outlined in district policy,** ~~conferences~~

before implementing major building projects and significant new programs.

**9.3.3.3**  The board of governors shall obtain prior approval from supporting district**s, as outlined in district policy,** ~~conferences~~

before implementing major building projects and significant new programs.

**Resolution #5 by-law 10.3.1-10.3.4 issuing of credentials**

*WHEREAS the National Credentials Committee shall issue credentials to approved candidates after receiving recommendations from the district executive or International Missions Operations Committee;*

*AND WHEREAS approved candidates for credentials are subject to the requirements of the General Constitution and By-Laws;*

*AND WHEREAS approved candidates for credentials may be subject to the approval of the district conference;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Laws 10.3.1 – 10.3.2 be amended by addition as follows:*

* 1. **ISSUING OF CREDENTIALS**
     1. The National Credentials Committee shall issue the approved credentials **to those who meet the requirements of the *General Constitution and By-Laws* and who have been recommended by the district executive or International Missions Operations Committee, subject to the appropriate approval of the district conference.**
     2. All initial applications for credentials, except those which relate to divorce and remarriage issues, must be made on a completed application form to be submitted to the district ~~conference~~ credentials committee for **appropriate approval of the district conference.** ~~district conference approval~~.

*AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.3.4 be amended by deletion:*

* + 1. ~~The National Credentials Committee shall issue credentials to those who meet the requirements of the~~ *~~General Constitution and By-Laws~~* ~~and who have been recommended and approved by the district executive that may act on behalf of the district conference.~~

**Resolution #6 By-Law 12.1.8 district boundaries – maritime district**

*WHEREAS the boundaries of the Maritime District Conference currently include the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda;*

*AND WHEREAS there are no PAOC-affiliated assemblies in Bermuda;*

*AND WHEREAS the legal system of Bermuda does not recognize the PAOC local church constitution;*

*AND WHEREAS previously affiliated congregations have established affiliations and/or relationships with other organizations;*

*AND WHEREAS there are no plans by the Maritime District to plant churches in Bermuda;*

*AND WHEREAS any future ministry in Bermuda would be better served under the oversight of the PAOC International Missions Department;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 12.1.8 be amended by deletion as follows:*

* + 1. The Maritime District shall comprise the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, **and** Prince Edward Island~~, and the Island of Bermuda~~.

**Resolution #7 By-Law 12.17 CAMP MEETINGS**

*WHEREAS the General Constitution and By-Laws outlines how district camp meetings are governed;*

*AND WHEREAS district camp meetings are governed by district constitutions and by-laws rather than at the District Conference;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 12.17 be amended as follows:*

* 1. **CAMP MEETINGS**

The management of all district camp meetings shall be determined by regulations established **in** ~~by~~ the **District Constitution and By-Laws** ~~district conference~~.

**Resolution #8 LCC article 4 tenets of faith: statement of fundamental and essential truths**

*WHEREAS the Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths may be amended by the General Conference from time to time;*

*AND WHEREAS the Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths is approved at a biennial General Conference as a stand-alone document;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT LCC Article 4 be clarified as follows:*

**ARTICLE 4 TENETS OF FAITH:** We believe most assuredly that the Holy Scriptures are God's final revelation and constitute our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This local church, by virtue of its affiliation with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, shall accept the **current version of the** *Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths*, as approved by **the General Conference of** The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada~~, and which is appended to this constitution~~.

**Resolution #9 LCC article 7 pastor and PASTORAL STAFF**

*WHEREAS it is important that pastoral staff members agree with the beliefs and practices of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada;*

*AND WHEREAS this can best be facilitated by pastoral staff holding credentials;*

*AND WHEREAS receiving an entry level credential is based on ministerial usefulness rather than academic qualifications;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article 7 be amended by addition as follows:*

**ARTICLE 7 PASTOR, PASTORAL STAFF AND [LEADERSHIP]**

* 1. **PASTOR**

**7.1.1** Nominations for pastor shall be submitted to the local church congregation by the [leadership], after consultation with the District Superintendent.

* + 1. The pastor must ~~be one who~~ hold~~s~~ an active credential **and be** in good standing with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada or one whom the district executive officers of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada approve.
  1. **PASTORAL STAFF**

**7.2.1 A member of the pastoral staff must hold an active credential and be in good standing with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.**

*AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the subsequent numberings be amended for the inclusion.*

*AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 2 of the Local Church Constitution be amended by addition of reference to a ministry agreement and credential holder discipline as follows:*

**BY-LAW 2 PASTOR, PASTORAL STAFF AND [LEADERSHIP]**

**2.2 PASTORAL STAFF**

* + 1. **Appointment: An appointment is established upon the individual’s signing of the ministry agreement.**
    2. **Duties: The pastoral staff shall fulfill their duties as outlined in their ministry agreement.**
    3. **Charges involving Credentials: Allegations leading to charges in matters involving the right of a credentialed staff member to hold credentials with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada as defined in By-Law 10.6.2 of the *General Constitution and By-Laws* must be made to the district in writing, and properly signed by one who is willing to appear in person and give testimony concerning the charges. Charges brought against a credential holder shall be dealt with according to provisions made in the *General Constitution and By-Laws* of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.**

**2.2.4 Charges involving the *criminal code* of canada: In the event that ministry is restricted by the District Superintendent as a result of a credential holder being charged under the *Criminal Code* of Canada, the credential holder shall continue to receive remuneration for a maximum of three (3) months.**

*AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the subsequent numberings be amended for the inclusion.*

*AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 2.1.7 and 2.1.8 (Pastor) be amended as follows:*

* + 1. **Charges involving Credentials:** Allegations leading to charges in matters involving the right of ~~a~~ **the** credentialed **pastor** ~~staff member~~ to hold credentials with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada as defined in By-Law 10.6.2 of the *General Constitution and By-Laws* must be made to the district in writing, and properly signed by one who is willing to appear in person and give testimony concerning the charges. Charges brought against ~~a~~ **the** credential**ed** **pastor** ~~holder~~ shall be dealt with according to provisions made in the *General Constitution and By-Laws* of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

**2.1.8 Charges involving the *criminal code* of canada:** In the event that ministry is restricted by the District Superintendent as a result of ~~a~~ **the** credential**ed pastor** ~~holder~~ being charged under the *Criminal Code* of Canada, the credential**ed pastor** ~~holder~~ shall continue to receive remuneration for a maximum of three (3) months.

**Resolution #10 LCC article 7.4 pastor and [leadership]**

*WHEREAS a local church may extend membership privileges and invite an individual to serve on the church board or pastor’s council;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article 7.4 be amended as follows:*

* 1. The local church may extend membership privileges to a district leader**,** or another Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada credential holder**,** and **may** invite **the individual** ~~them~~ to serve on the [leadership].

**Resolution #11 LCC By-Law 2.2.3 duties - treAsurer**

*WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the treasurer to ensure that the deposit and disbursement of funds is undertaken appropriately;*

*AND WHEREAS the treasurer may delegate such responsibilities to another authorized individual;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT LCC By-Law 2.2.3 be amended as follows:*

* + 1. **Duties – Treasurer:** The treasurer shall be the custodian of the general funds of the local church and shall **ensure the** deposit **of** the same in a chartered bank or credit union in the name of the local church, and shall **ensure the** ~~disperse~~ **disbursement of** such funds as authorized by the [leadership]. The treasurer shall ensure that an accurate record of accounts is kept, and shall present a financial statement at the annual congregational meeting and at any other time when requested to do so by the [leadership] or the local church congregation. The books shall be reviewed before the annual congregational meeting by financially qualified individuals appointed by the [leadership].

**Resolution #12 LCC By-Law 6.3.5 and 6.3.7 causes for dismissal of membership**

*WHEREAS allegations against a church member, as referenced in LCC By-Law 6.2, may be investigated;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 6.3.5 be amended as follows:*

* + 1. **Investigation of Reports or Complaints of Alleged Violations:** Written and signed allegations ~~of violations under By-Law 6.2 by~~ **involving** a local church member **as referenced in By-Law 6.2,** shall be investigated. The pastor shall appoint two (2) members of the [leadership] to investigate the allegation, having in mind that it is their responsibility to safeguard the member, the local church and the fellowship. This shall be done to determine the credibility of the allegation.

*AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 6.3.7 be amended as follows:*

**6.3.7 Preparation and Filing of Charges:** Allegations shall only be investigated when they have been made in writing, dated and signed by the complainant.

If, after due investigation, it is determined **by the investigators** that a disciplinary hearing should occur, charges should be filed with the [leadership].

The person against whom charges have been filed shall be informed **in writing of the charges made according to By-Law 6.2, including a signed copy of the charges; either** by registered mail **or hand delivered to the individual on behalf of the investigating committee** ~~of the charges~~ at least 15 days before being called to appear before the [leadership] for a disciplinary hearing. The hearing shall take place within 40 days of formal charges being delivered to the local church member, or the entire proceeding shall be rescinded. A copy of the charges shall be sent to the District Superintendent.

**The local church member must confirm attendance at the disciplinary hearing no later than seven (7) days prior to the date established for the disciplinary hearing. Failure to confirm or appear at the disciplinary hearing may constitute voluntary withdrawal from membership. A hearing may proceed as outlined in By-Law 6.3.9.**

The said local church member may be relieved immediately from local church involvement upon being notified of the charges.

*AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BY-LAW 6.3.9 be amended as follows:*

* + 1. **Disciplinary Hearing:** In the event the investigators find the charges merit a hearing they shall request the pastor to arrange for a disciplinary hearing by the [leadership] for the accused local church member. The local church member shall be requested to appear at the hearing.

To ensure the ability of the hearing committee to render an impartial judgment, no member of the [leadership] of the local church may sit on the hearing committee when they have been party to the details of the investigation or any event or incident related to the alleged offence.

The pastor may attend the hearing as an observer but shall not participate nor be present when a vote is taken in the decision as to guilt or innocence. The role of the pastor is to be redemptive to all parties involved.

If the accused local church member refuses to appear at the hearing to offer a defence, the hearing **may** ~~will~~ proceed and the accused member may be disciplined if found guilty of the charges preferred.

*AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT GENERAL CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS, BY-LAW 10.6.9, paragraph two be amended for consistency as follows:*

**By-Law 10.6.9 PREPARATION AND FILING OF CHARGES:**

…(paragraph 2)

The person against whom charges have been filed shall be informed in writing of the charges made according to By-Law 10.6.2, including a signed copy of the charges; either by registered mail or **hand delivered to the individual on behalf of** ~~personally by~~ the investigating committee at least 15 days before being called to appear before the hearing committee. The disciplinary hearing should take place, if possible, in the locality of the alleged offense or offenses to facilitate access to as many witnesses as possible.

**Resolution #13 LCC By-Law 2.1.2 pastoR DUTIES: SPECIAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

*WHEREAS pastors arrange for special meetings and events;*

*AND WHEREAS events encompass more than missionary conventions or revival campaigns;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2.1.2 be amended as follows:*

* + 1. **Duties:** The pastor shall be considered the primary spiritual overseer of the local church and shall, with the [leadership], direct all of its activities. (The pastor shall consult with the [leadership] regarding the ongoing health and wholeness of the congregation and to ensure the appropriate ministries and programs are in place to accomplish the same.) The pastor shall arrange for all special meetings **and events**~~, missionary conventions or revival campaigns~~. The pastor shall act as chair of all the business meetings of the local church, and of the [leadership]. The pastor shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees and departments. The pastor shall provide for all the services of the local church, and no person shall be invited to speak or preach in the local church without the approval of the pastor (and as provided in *General Constitution and By-Laws* 10.5.5 and 10.5.6). No congregational or [leadership] meeting shall be held in the absence of the pastor without the written authorization of the pastor.