



2450 Milltower Court Mississauga, ON L5N 5Z6

**2018 General Conference Amendments  
to the *Local Church Constitution***

May 2018

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Following each General Conference, a summary of resolutions affecting the *Local Church Constitution and By-Laws* is provided to assist local assemblies in updating their local constitution. At the 2018 General Conference in Victoria, the Local Church Constitution was revised, both in terms of its content and format with the following Resolution being Moved, Seconded and CARRIED.

**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 #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:*

**ARTICLE 7.4** 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:*

**BY-LAW 2.2.3 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:*

**BY-LAW 6.3.5 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:*

**BY-LAW 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:*

**BY-LAW 6.3.9 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.

## 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:

**BY-LAW 2.1.2 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.

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In order to take effect locally, each *self-governing assembly*, at a regularly convened congregational meeting is required to adopt amendments individually, OR adopt the *Local Church Constitution* (as approved at the 2018 General Conference) in one single motion. However, we ask that you please point out to the members the potential changes.

For this Local Church Constitution to be adopted locally, a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at a duly convened congregational meeting is required.

As provincial legislation may vary from District to District, you are encouraged to review your final version with your District Office.

If your church is incorporated, you may wish to review proposed amendments with your legal counsel.

The new Local Church Constitution can be viewed and downloaded from [www.paoc.org](http://www.paoc.org) -> Fellowship Services -> Church Toolbox -> Resource Documents -> Constitutions. Should you

desire to receive a hard copy of these documents, please contact the Order Desk at 905-542-7400 ext. 3223 or [orderdesk@paoc.org](mailto:orderdesk@paoc.org).

In addition, reference was made at General Conference to the value of a PAOC credential for ministerial staff, given the shifting cultural values in Canada and potential exposure to employment litigation.

We encourage churches to consider requiring all staff to have:

- a. A PAOC credential or
- b. Membership in the local church or
- c. A contract that requires annual renewal

Enclosed, you will find a copy of our credential information brochure.

If you have any questions on the Local Church Constitution or credential matters, please feel free to contact your District Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hazzard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Hazzard  
General Secretary Treasurer  
DH/tc