



The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

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**Description:** The 2004 General Conference called for the General Executive to appoint a study commission to review the issue of secret orders. At the May 2006 meeting of the General Executive, the following was adopted as the official position of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

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### **MEMBERSHIP IN SECRET ORDERS**

Ours is a last-day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:14), leaving us no alternative but wholehearted devotion to the cause of spreading the gospel (Luke 9:62), and it is well known that the various secret orders require much valuable time and interest, thus diverting the attention of the servant of the Lord (Ephesians 5:16).

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20, Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part unregenerated (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man only (1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8), thus wrongly directing, by incorrect interpretation, important spiritual truths (2 Peter 3:16).

Confidence in the secret orders and their teachings has always tended toward the embracing of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (Ephesians 2:8,9).

Certain secret orders also demand recognition of and oaths pledging allegiance to various gods other than the triune God of the Bible. Such acceptance and allegiance are in clear contradiction to the Biblical mandate to worship God alone.

In consideration of the foregoing, all affiliated ministers should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders which we recognize as essentially of the world and pagan, and any who may have identified themselves with such orders are to sever their connections therewith (2 Corinthians 6:17).

In addition, affiliated ministers are requested to use their good influence among lay members to dissuade them from such affiliations (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).