



# 2020 Proposed Resolutions to the General Conference

Draft 13

Thursday, March 5, 2020

*\*These are subject to change*



**2020 General Conference**

**Halifax Convention Centre, Halifax NS  
Proposed Resolutions**

*(As at Thursday, March 5, 2020)*

**RESOLUTION #1      BY-LAW 10.2.12      PROVISIONAL CREDENTIALS**

*WHEREAS the Superintendents Committee has approved a motion to remove the provisional status of a credential holder who has successfully completed a restoration program and has been granted reinstatement of credentials;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.2.12 be amended by deletion as follows:*

**10.2.12 PROVISIONAL CREDENTIALS**

A credential holder who qualifies for Ordained Credential, Licensed Minister Credential or Recognition of Ministry Credential, and who is newly transferred into The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada as provided in By-Law 10.4.2.5, ~~or whose credential has been reinstated under By-Law 10.7.4,~~ shall be classified as provisional credential status. Credential holders with provisional status under By-Law 10.4.2.5 ~~and By-Law 10.7.4~~ shall have their credentials reviewed by the district executive or International Missions Operations Committee after one year, prior to issuance of regular credential status. Credential holders with provisional status shall not have the privilege of General Conference or district conference participation, but shall be eligible for all other benefits of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

*AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 10.7.4 be amended by deletion as follows:*

~~**10.7.4**—Reinstatement of credentials, if granted, shall be issued with provisional status for one year and reviewed by the district executive or International Missions Operations Committee after that period, with a report being forwarded to the General Secretary-Treasurer.~~

**RESOLUTION #2      BY-LAW 10.6.1      INVESTIGATIONS AND DISCIPLINE**

*WHEREAS the process and timeline in a disciplinary procedure as delineated throughout By-Law 10.6 DISCIPLINE of the General Constitution and By-Laws that must be adhered to, is progressive in nature;*

*AND WHEREAS there are criteria set out in the General Constitution and By-Laws outlining the causes of disciplinary action (By-Law 10.6.2);*

*AND WHEREAS the District Superintendent or Executive Director for International Missions may also exercise discretion concerning whether or not to commence an official investigation and shall have the right to determine restriction of ministerial activities (By-Law 10.6.5);*

*AND WHEREAS alleged violations under the General Constitution and By-Laws, By-Law 10.6.2 shall be investigated (By-Law 10.6.6);*

*AND WHEREAS it is expected that any actions in a disciplinary procedure be administered with gentleness as referenced in Galatians 6:1;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.6.1 be amended as follows:*

### 10.6.1 THE NATURE AND PURPOSES OF DISCIPLINE

Discipline is an application of scriptural principles that guide conduct and lifestyle. The aims of discipline are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration.

Discipline is to be administered for the restoration of the minister, while fully providing for the protection and advancement of the spiritual welfare of our local assemblies. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective, and is to be exercised as under a dispensation of both justice and mercy. The following actions shall be **administered with gentleness**, ~~proceeded with only after all other avenues of Christian counsel and admonition have been attempted.~~

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that LCC By-Law 6.1 be amended with the same wording.

## RESOLUTION #3 BY-LAW 10.6.16 AND LCC BY-LAW 6.3 BROTHERLY LOVE

WHEREAS the General Constitution and By-Laws and Local Church Constitution use the adjective “brotherly” to characterize the words “love and kindness” in the context of restoration as it relates to discipline;

AND WHEREAS the adjective of being “Christian” could more aptly describe this;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.6.16 be amended as follows:

### 10.6.16 RESTORATION

An effort should be made to lead the offending credential holder through a program of restoration, administered in ~~brotherly~~ **Christian** love and kindness. The following provisions for restoration shall apply:

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT LCC By-Law 6.3.10 and 6.3.12 be amended as follows:

**LCC BY-LAW 6.3.10 DISCIPLINE:** A local church member who has been found guilty of violating or who has confessed in writing to having violated any of the principles set forth in the *Local Church Constitution and By-Laws*, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the [leadership]. Said discipline shall be administered in ~~brotherly~~ **Christian** love and kindness. The [leadership] shall weigh decisions on the basis of the offence itself.

**LCC BY-LAW 6.3.12 RESTORATION:** In the event a local church member who has been found guilty of offence shows repentance and indicates a desire for continued fellowship with the local church, the [leadership] shall determine an appropriate restoration program, which would have in view the completion of a suspension period or the reinstatement of membership as applicable.

The program of restoration shall be administered in ~~brotherly~~ **Christian** love and kindness.

The restoration program may include limitations of ministry involvement during the term of restoration.

## RESOLUTION #4 BY-LAW 10.6.2.1.1.3 CAUSES OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

WHEREAS an assumption of dictatorial authority by a credential holder is a cause of disciplinary action under By-Law 10.6.2.2. where this cause would be seen as a violation of the principles of servant leadership;

AND WHEREAS an action of dictatorial authority is understood in scripture as an abuse of power and authority;

AND WHEREAS such actions should be considered a violation of a Biblical mandate rather than a violation of the principles of servant leadership as a cause for disciplinary action;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.6.2.1.1.3 be amended by addition and By-Law 10.6.2.2.2 be amended by deletion as follows:

**10.6.2.1.1.3** Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct or any conduct unbecoming to a credential holder (including but not limited to **abuse of power or authority**, deception, fraud, theft, assault, and drunkenness).

**10.6.2.2.2** A contentious or non-cooperative spirit, ~~an assumption of dictatorial authority~~, or an arbitrary rejection of district (or International Missions Operations Committee in the case of global workers) counsel and direction.

**RESOLUTION #5 BY-LAW 10.6.4 REPORTS, RUMOURS OR COMPLAINTS**

*WHEREAS allegations of a sensitive and/or painful nature may arise where it is not suitable for a complainant to write the allegation himself or herself as stated in By-Law 10.6.4;*

*AND WHEREAS it may be advisable for the District Superintendent or Executive Director for International Missions to prepare and/or assist in preparing the allegation rather than putting the primary and sole responsibility on the complainant;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.6.4 (last paragraph) be amended as follows:*

**10.6.4 REPORTS, RUMOURS, OR COMPLAINTS**

Should there be reports, rumours or complaints, written or unwritten, which appear to be persistent and serious concerning the credential holder and/or immediate family which have become publicly known and/or pose a detriment to the ministry of the individual, church, or fellowship, then the District Superintendent or the Executive Director for International Missions and another district executive or International Missions Operations Committee member, shall use their judgment to discuss the matter with the credential holder. The District Superintendent or Executive Director for International Missions shall exercise discretion concerning whether or not to commence an official investigation.

If, after due consideration of reports, rumours or complaints, it is determined that a formal allegation should be made, the said allegation shall be prepared **by, or** as directed by, the District Superintendent or the Executive Director for International Missions.

**RESOLUTION #6 BY-LAW 10.6.6.3 ACCUSED CREDENTIAL HOLDER**

*WHEREAS the terminology currently used in a disciplinary procedure described in By-Law 10 of the General Constitution and By-Laws or in By-Law 6 of the Local Church Constitution that refers to an “accused credential holder” or “accused local church member” is better stated as “the respondent” in a complaint;*

*AND WHEREAS the term “accused” may infer culpability;*

*AND WHEREAS the respondent credential holder or local church member is considered innocent until proven guilty;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.6.6.3 be amended as follows:*

**10.6.6.3** The ~~accused~~ **respondent** credential holder(s) shall be given an opportunity to be interviewed to discuss the allegation.

**10.6.6.3.1** The credential holder shall receive a copy of the allegation.

**10.6.6.3.2** Upon being informed of the allegation, ~~an accused~~ **a respondent** credential holder shall be granted the opportunity to make a statement with regard to the allegation.

*AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that all applicable references be amended in the General Constitution and By-Laws and the Local Church Constitution.*

**RESOLUTION #7 BY-LAW 10.6.6.6 PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE**

*WHEREAS an investigation that occurs as stated in By-Law 10.6 Discipline is not to determine the guilt or innocence of the credential holder;*

*AND WHEREAS the principles of natural justice include a presumption of innocence until guilt is established;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.6.6.6 be amended as follows:*

- 10.6.6.6** **A respondent credential holder is presumed innocent unless guilt is established. The fact that either formal or informal procedures have been initiated does not create an inference of guilt.** An investigation is not to determine the guilt or innocence of the credential holder. The investigators shall consider the available testimony and determine if there is sufficient evidence to convene a disciplinary hearing. A minimum of two witnesses (individuals or separate sources of evidence) are required to proceed to charges being laid. The investigators shall seek to assemble all relevant facts, evidence and testimony to present to the disciplinary hearing.

**RESOLUTION #8 BY-LAW 10.6.11.4 CREDENTIAL HOLDER SUPPORT**

*WHEREAS a respondent credential holder as stated in By-Law 10.6.11 Disciplinary Hearing may wish to bring both a spouse and another credential holder to the disciplinary hearing for support;*

*AND WHEREAS the wording of the current By-Law 10.6.11.4 only allows for one of those persons to be present for support;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.6.11.4 be amended by addition as follows:*

- 10.6.11.4** The accused credential holder shall have the right to have another credential holder and/or spouse present for support, but not as an active participant in the hearing process.
- The complainant shall have the right to have another person present for support, but not as an active participant in the hearing process.

**RESOLUTION #9 BY-LAW 10.6.11.10 ANNOUNCEMENT OF VERDICT**

*WHEREAS By-Law 10.6.11.10 addresses the communication of the verdict in the disciplinary hearing process of a credential holder;*

*AND WHEREAS the verdict will be one of not guilty or guilty;*

*AND WHEREAS there is some redundancy in the wording of this By-Law:*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.6.11.10 be amended and re-ordered as follows:*

**10.6.11.10 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VERDICT**

- 10.6.11.10.1** The verdict shall be communicated to the District Superintendent or Executive Director for International Missions and placed in the minutes of the district executive or International Missions Operations Committee noting the charge only by reference to the specific section of the *General Constitution and By-Laws* of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada By-Law 10.6.2.

- 10.6.11.10.2** The District Superintendent or Executive Director for International Missions shall communicate the verdict in writing to the credential holder, including the right and process of appeal, if eligible for an appeal, and to the complainant and to any other appropriate person within 10 days. The written statement to the credential holder must be sent by registered mail.

- 10.6.11.10.2.1** ~~10.6.11.10.5~~ If the verdict is one of not guilty, then no record of the hearing shall leave the district office or international missions department in the case of a transfer of the credential holder from the district or department.

**10.6.11.10.2.2** ~~10.6.11.10.3~~ If the **verdict is one of guilt, the written statement to** accused is found guilty, the credential holder shall **inform them** ~~be informed in writing~~ that credentials are suspended until restoration and reinstatement have been completed. **The written statement shall inform the credential holder of the right and process of appeal;** ~~subject to the appeal process.~~

~~10.6.11.10.4~~ If a guilty verdict is reached, the individual shall be informed in writing of the right and process of appeal.

~~10.6.11.10.5~~ If the verdict is one of not guilty, then no record of the hearing shall leave the district office or international missions department in the case of a transfer of the credential holder from the district or department.

**10.6.11.10.3** ~~10.6.11.10.6~~ If a credential holder confesses to a wrongdoing or is found guilty by a hearing committee, then the District Superintendent or Executive Director for International Missions should use discretion as to whether a public announcement needs to be made to state the cause of discipline (using the specific words of the *General Constitution and By-Laws*) to the appropriate people. A statement of disciplinary action taken shall be communicated in writing to the local church board or national fellowship partner where applicable.

**RESOLUTION #10      BY-LAW 12.9.2.3      GENERAL EXECUTIVE CREDENTIAL HOLDER MEMBER AT LARGE NOMINEE**

*WHEREAS the process utilized by Districts in the selection of a General Executive Credential Holder Member At Large Nominee can be reasonably shortened while still permitting a district conference its due process in the selection;*

*AND WHEREAS the district conference is reasonably served with the presentation of three names from a District Executive;*

*AND WHEREAS it is recommended to drop the nomination ballot as well as the provision of an additional credential holder nominated by eligible District Conference voters from the selection process;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 12.9.2.3 be amended as follows:*

**12.9.2.3** Prior to the convening of the biennial General Conference, the district conference shall choose a credential holder to serve as a nominee to the General Conference for election to the General Executive. The process for choosing the nominee shall be as follows: ~~on a nomination ballot~~ the district executive shall present three names. ~~Additional credential holders receiving over 5% on the nominating ballot shall be eligible to appear on the election ballot.~~ A **candidate receiving more than 50 percent of the votes cast** ~~two-thirds majority~~ on the district conference ~~nomination ballot or first election ballot~~ shall be required **in order** to select the district nominee to be presented to the General Conference. If the district nominee is not confirmed on the first election ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall appear on the second election ballot. A majority vote shall confirm the election of the district nominee for the General Conference nomination slate for General Executive members-at-large.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 3.3.2.1 be amended as follows:

**3.3.2.1** Each district conference, prior to the convening of a biennial General Conference, shall receive three nominations from the district executive. ~~Additional nominees, receiving more than five percent on a district conference ballot will be added to the three district executive nominees, in order to~~ **A district conference will** elect a credential holder as provided in By-Law 12.9.2.3 to serve as a nominee to the General Conference, three of whom shall be elected to serve as members of the General Executive. In the event that a person so nominated shall subsequently become ineligible or unavailable for election, the district executive shall be authorized to appoint a nominee on behalf of the district conference.

**RESOLUTION #11 BY-LAW 12.9.1 QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES**

*WHEREAS there may be a need to allow for suitable candidates for the position of District Superintendent to be elected who have not been a member of their district for at least two years immediately prior to nomination;*

*AND WHEREAS provision may be made for a district to amend its District Constitution accordingly;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 12.9.1 be amended as follows:*

**12.9.1 QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES**

The Candidates for superintendent of a district conference shall be ~~an~~ ordained persons of mature experience, sound judgment, recognized ability, and Christian character, who ~~has~~ have been ordained for a period of not fewer than 10 consecutive years with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Candidates for superintendent shall have served, including at least two years as a member of their district immediately prior to nomination or as determined by the respective district constitution.

The other officers, executive members and presbyters will meet the qualifications determined by the respective district constitution.

**RESOLUTION #12 LCC ARTICLE 1 LEGAL CHURCH NAME**

*WHEREAS the Local Church Constitution is the governing and legal document utilized when affiliated assemblies apply for affiliation with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and charitable status with the Canada Revenue Agency;*

*AND WHEREAS some churches may also have a different operating name;*

*AND WHEREAS the church affiliation certificate issued from The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada is in the legal name of the church;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT ARTICLE 1 of the Local Church Constitution be amended as follows:*

**ARTICLE 1 - NAME:** The legal name of t~~his~~ local church shall be ~~known as~~ \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION #13 LCC ARTICLE 6 CHURCH MEMBERSHIP LIST**

*WHEREAS the Local Church Constitution Article 6 Membership addresses the membership of a local church;*

*AND WHEREAS the keeping of an official local church membership list is understood but not clearly stated;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT ARTICLE 6 of the Local Church Constitution be amended by the addition of Article 6.3 as follows:*

**6.3** Establishment and maintenance of an official membership list shall be determined by the [leadership] in accordance with the requirements outlined in Article 6.1.

**RESOLUTION #14 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 there is value for both the local church and The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada to ensure that pastors in local churches are in alignment with the Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths;*

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

*AND WHEREAS the PAOC offers the option of ministerial credentials based on ministerial usefulness rather than academic*

qualifications;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article 7 of the Local Church Constitution and By-Laws be amended by addition as follows:

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

**7.1 PASTOR**

- 7.1.1 Nominations for pastor shall be submitted to the local church congregation by the [leadership], after consultation with the District Superintendent.
- 7.1.2 The pastor must ~~be one who~~ holds 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.

**7.2 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**

- 2.2.1 **APPOINTMENT: An appointment is established upon the individual's signing of the ministry agreement.**
- 2.2.2 **DUTIES: The pastoral staff shall fulfill their duties as outlined in their ministry agreement.**
- 2.2.3 **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:

- 2.1.7 **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** credentialed ~~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** credentialed ~~pastor holder~~ being charged under the *Criminal Code* of Canada, the credentialed ~~pastor holder~~ shall continue to receive remuneration for a maximum of three (3) months.

**RESOLUTION #15    LCC ARTICLE 7.3    LEADERSHIP**

WHEREAS clarification is required in the Local Church Constitution regarding minutes in a congregational business meeting;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article 7.3 of the Local Church Constitution be amended as follows:

- 7.3 **[LEADERSHIP]:** The [leadership] shall consist of the pastor and not fewer than three (3) [leaders] (if more, the exact number and the resolution authorizing the same must be duly recorded in the church minutes of a congregational business meeting).

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Local Church Constitution By-Law 3.1.2 (Option One – Elected) be amended as follows:

- 3.1.2 The nominating committee, after its appointment, shall invite submissions from members of the congregation, until 14 days prior to the annual congregational business meeting, or a longer period as approved by resolution of the membership and recorded in minutes of ~~a the~~ congregational business meeting.

**RESOLUTION #16    LCC BY-LAW 3.2    ELECTED OFFICERS**

WHEREAS there is clarity required for voting in the Option One - Elected model and Option Two - Pastor's Council model;

AND WHEREAS LCC By-Law 3 needs to be corrected in its wording:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT LCC By-Law 3.2 (Option One – Elected) be amended as follows:

- 3.2 **VOTING:** All candidates for the [leadership] elected officers of this local church, except the pastor, shall be declared elected upon receiving more than 50 percent of all votes cast for the office at the annual congregational business meeting. If the candidate is not elected on the first ballot, voting shall continue until an election is declared. If no election is declared as a result of the second election ballot, the name receiving the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated on each succeeding ballot.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT LCC By-Law 3.1.2 (Option Two – Pastor's Council) be amended as follows:

- 3.1.2 All members of the Pastor's Council will be presented by motion at the annual congregational business meeting for a ratification vote.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT LCC By-Law 3.4 be amended as follows:

- 3.4 **ORDER OF BUSINESS:** The regular order of business for the annual congregational business meeting of this local church shall be determined by the pastor and [leadership] which may include such items as:
- Devotional
  - Reading of previous minutes by the secretary
  - Report of treasurer
  - Report of committees
  - Unfinished business
  - Selection of ~~officers~~ [leadership]
  - New business
  - Adjournment

**RESOLUTION #17    LCC BY-LAW 7.5.1    FINANCES**

WHEREAS the wording can be clarified regarding authorization from a district executive for the amount of church indebtedness in the Local Church Constitution By-Law 7.5.1;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 7.5.1 be amended as follows:

**LCC By-Law 7.5.1** This local church **shall consult with and obtain the approval of the district executive before proceeding with the requirements of By-Law 7.5.2 hereof, and** prior to the making of application for loan from any source or incurring indebtedness on a purchase plan or otherwise when repayment is not to be made in full within 12 months of the date of the intended loan; or where the intended indebtedness, together with all other indebtedness of the said local church, in the aggregate will exceed ten (10) percent of the total amount of the previous year's gross revenues, ~~then the local church shall consult with and obtain the approval of the district executive before proceeding with the requirements of By-Law 7.5.2 hereof.~~

**RESOLUTION #18      ARTICLE 5.1 – 5.8      STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL AND ESSENTIAL TRUTHS**

*NOTE: This will be discussed during the Business Session on Wednesday, May 6, 2020*

*WHEREAS the General Executive requested the Theological Study Commission to review and refresh the Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths in keeping with the historic practice of periodically refreshing the statement;*

*AND WHEREAS the Theological Study Commission conducted a five-year project that included research into both our early tradition and current Pentecostal scholarship, a General Conference presentation of drafts of the Spirit Baptism and Eschatology sections, and a consultation process that included every district;*

*AND WHEREAS each district consultation contributed to changes that appear in the proposed Statement of Essential Truths;*

*AND WHEREAS a large majority of those polled at district events in 2019 expressed general satisfaction with the draft proposals of the Statement of Essential Truths;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article 5.1 – Article 5.8 be replaced in its entirety with the following amended wording:*

**ARTICLE 5      STATEMENT OF ESSENTIAL TRUTHS**

**PREAMBLE**

**This version of the *Statement of Essential Truths* represents the result of an extensive collaborative process to rephrase and refresh what is most essential to us. As before, we make no claim that this statement covers all biblical truth, nor that the human phraseology employed here is inspired. We recognize as we did at the outset of our movement that there is some diversity of theological thought among us, but we remain committed as a Pentecostal community to the historic creeds of the church, to evangelical convictions of faith, and to the Full Gospel that Christ is Saviour, Healer, Spirit-Baptizer and Soon Coming King.**

**5.1      TRIUNE GOD**

**There is one God, the creator, who exists eternally in unity as three equal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup> The triune God is loving, holy, infinite, just, and worthy of all worship.<sup>2</sup>**

**The Father accomplishes his plan of salvation through both redemption and judgement.<sup>3</sup> All things will be subject to him, and his kingdom will have no end.<sup>4</sup>**

**The Father sent the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of Mary when she was a virgin.<sup>5</sup> Jesus became fully human while remaining fully God.<sup>6</sup> Anointed by the Spirit, Jesus revealed the Father by his sinless life, teaching, and miracles.<sup>7</sup> After he died for our sin, God raised him from the dead, and he is now at the right hand of the Father.<sup>8</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Matt 28:19; 2Cor 13:14

<sup>2</sup> Exod 34:6-7; Psa 99:4-5

<sup>3</sup> Exod 6:6; Rom 1:16-18

<sup>4</sup> Psa 103:19; Rev 11:15; Eph 1:10

<sup>5</sup> Matt 1:18-25

<sup>6</sup> John 1:1, 14; Col 1:19; Heb 2:17

<sup>7</sup> John 1:32; 14:7-10; Luke 4:18-19

<sup>8</sup> Acts 2:32-33; Rom 8:34

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father through the Son and gives life throughout creation.<sup>9</sup> The Spirit draws people to repentance and new life in Jesus Christ.<sup>10</sup> Through the Spirit's indwelling, the Father and the Son are present to all believers, making them children of God.<sup>11</sup>

## **5.2 BIBLE**

The Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the written revelation of God's character and saving purposes for humanity and for all creation.<sup>12</sup> The entire Bible is true and trustworthy, and is the final and absolute authority for belief and conduct.<sup>13</sup> The Holy Spirit who inspired the Bible enables its interpretation and application.<sup>14</sup>

## **5.3 CREATION**

God created and sustains the heavens and the earth,<sup>15</sup> which display God's glory. Formed in the image of God, both male and female, humankind is entrusted with the care of God's creation as faithful stewards.<sup>16</sup> As a result of human rebellion, sin and death entered the world, distorting the image of God and all of God's good creation.<sup>17</sup>

Angels were created as supernatural beings to worship and serve God.<sup>18</sup> Along with Satan, some angels chose to rebel and oppose the purposes of God.<sup>19</sup> Christ gives believers victory over Satan and these demons.<sup>20</sup>

## **5.4 SALVATION**

Salvation is available to all people by the loving, redemptive act of the triune God.<sup>21</sup> Through obedience to the Father,<sup>22</sup> Christ, who had no sin, became sin for us, offering himself and shedding his blood on the cross so that in him we might become right with God.<sup>23</sup> The life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ<sup>24</sup> provide the way of salvation for those who, by God's grace, repent from their sin and confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.<sup>25</sup> Salvation means to be forgiven, reconciled with God and others, born again, and liberated from sin and darkness, transferring the believer into God's Kingdom.<sup>26</sup> Our experience of liberation includes healing as a foretaste of our future restoration.<sup>27</sup> Those who remain in Christ and do not turn away are assured of salvation on judgement day by the indwelling Holy Spirit,<sup>28</sup> who sanctifies and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.<sup>29</sup>

## **5.5 SPIRIT BAPTISM**

On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus poured out the promised Holy Spirit on the Church.<sup>30</sup> As his return draws near, Jesus continues to baptize in the Holy Spirit those who are believers.<sup>31</sup> This empowers them to continue his work of proclaiming with speech and action the good news of the arrival and coming of the Kingdom of God.<sup>32</sup> This experience is available for everyone, male and female, of every age, status,<sup>33</sup> and ethnicity.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Psa 104:21-30; Acts 2:33

<sup>10</sup> John 16:7-15

<sup>11</sup> Rom 8:14-17; 1John 3:24

<sup>12</sup> Psa 119:105, 137-138

<sup>13</sup> 2Tim 3:16

<sup>14</sup> 2Pet 1:20-21; John 16:13; 1Cor 2:12-13

<sup>15</sup> Gen 1:1; Col 1:15-17

<sup>16</sup> Gen 1:26-27

<sup>17</sup> Rom 5:12; 8:20-22

<sup>18</sup> Heb 1:14; Psa 103:20

<sup>19</sup> Rev 12:7-9

<sup>20</sup> Acts 10:38; Eph 6:10-13

<sup>21</sup> John 3:16

<sup>22</sup> John 8:28-29; Phil 2:8; Heb 5:8

<sup>23</sup> 2Cor 5:21

<sup>24</sup> Rom 4:22-25; 5:19; 6:4-5; Heb 7:24-28

<sup>25</sup> Rom 10:9; 1John 1:9

<sup>26</sup> Eph 2:13-16; Col 1:13-14, 19-20; 1Pet 1:3

<sup>27</sup> Isa 53:4-5; Matt 8:17; Rom 8:23

<sup>28</sup> Eph 1:13-14; 1John 4:13; Heb 6:5-6; Phil 3:12-14

<sup>29</sup> 1Thess 4:3-4; 1Cor 6:11; Rom 12: 1-2; 1Pet 1:2

<sup>30</sup> Luke 24:49; Acts 2:33

<sup>31</sup> Acts 2:38-39; Acts 19:1-6

<sup>32</sup> Luke 4:18-19; Acts 1:8; Luke 4:43

<sup>33</sup> Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18, 39

<sup>34</sup> Acts 10:45-46

**The sign of speaking in tongues indicates that believers have been baptized with the Holy Spirit<sup>35</sup> and signifies the nature of Spirit baptism as empowering our communication, to be his witnesses with speech and action<sup>36</sup> as we continue to pray in the Spirit.<sup>37</sup>**

## **5.6 THE CHURCH**

**Jesus Christ is the head of the church.<sup>38</sup> All who are united with Christ are joined by the Spirit to his body.<sup>39</sup> Each local church is an expression of the universal church whose role is to participate in the mission of God to restore all things.<sup>40</sup>**

**Central to the church is the shared experience of the transforming presence of God.<sup>41</sup> The church responds with worship, prayer, proclamation, discipleship, and fellowship,<sup>42</sup> including the practices of water baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism by immersion symbolizes the believer's identification with Christ in his death and resurrection.<sup>43</sup> The Lord's Supper symbolizes the communion of believers and proclaims Christ's death in anticipation of his return.<sup>44</sup>**

**The Spirit gives all gifts to the church to minister to others in love for the purpose of bearing witness to Christ and for the building up of the church.<sup>45</sup> The Spirit also empowers leaders, both female and male, to equip the church to fulfil its mission and purposes.<sup>46</sup>**

## **5.7 RESTORATION**

**Our great hope is for the imminent return of Christ in the air to receive his own, both the living who will be transformed, and the dead in Christ who will be bodily resurrected.<sup>47</sup> Christ will complete at his second coming the restoration begun when he initiated God's Kingdom at his first coming.<sup>48</sup> Christ will liberate creation from the curse, fulfil God's covenant to Israel, and defeat all powers that oppose God.<sup>49</sup> Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.<sup>50</sup>**

**Ultimately, God will judge the living and the dead.<sup>51</sup> Such judgement is consistent with God's character as loving, holy, and just. It is God's gracious answer to humanity's cry for justice to prevail throughout the earth.<sup>52</sup> The unredeemed will go away into eternal punishment, but the redeemed into eternal life.<sup>53</sup> The redeemed will enjoy the presence of God where there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain.<sup>54</sup> Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!<sup>55</sup>**

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<sup>35</sup> Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6

<sup>36</sup> Acts 1:8; 2:14-41, 43; 4:31; Rom 15:19

<sup>37</sup> Acts 2:11; 4:31; 1Cor 14:15

<sup>38</sup> Col 1:18; Matt 16:18

<sup>39</sup> 1Cor 12:12-14

<sup>40</sup> Acts 1:8; Matt 28:18-20; Acts 13:1-3; Rev 21:5

<sup>41</sup> Acts 2:42-43; 1Cor 12:7; Matt 18:20

<sup>42</sup> 1Pet 2:4-5; 9-10; Eph 2:10; Col 4:2-6; Acts 2:42

<sup>43</sup> Rom 6:3-8; Matt 28:19

<sup>44</sup> Matt 26:26-29; 1Cor 11:23-26

<sup>45</sup> Heb 2:3-4; Acts 8:5-7; 1Cor 14:12, 23-24

<sup>46</sup> Eph 4:11-16; Matt 20:25-28; Acts 2:17-18; 6:2-4; Rom 16:7

<sup>47</sup> 1Thess 4:14-17; 5:1-2

<sup>48</sup> Matt 13:24-41; Rev 11:15-17; Acts 3:20-21; Acts 1:6-7

<sup>49</sup> Rom 8:19-21; 1Cor 15:20-26

<sup>50</sup> Phil 2:10-11; Isa 45:23

<sup>51</sup> Acts 10:42; 1Pet 4:5

<sup>52</sup> Mal 2:17-3:1; Rev 6:9-11

<sup>53</sup> Matt 25:46

<sup>54</sup> Isa 25:8-12; Rev 21:3-4

<sup>55</sup> Rev 22:20

## **ARTICLE 5 — STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL AND ESSENTIAL TRUTHS**

### **PREAMBLE**

The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada stands firmly in the mainstream of historical Christianity. It takes the Bible as its all-sufficient source of faith and practice, and subscribes to the historic creeds of the universal church. In common with historical, evangelical Christianity, it emphasizes Christ as Saviour and coming King. It also presents Christ as Healer, and it adopts the distinctive position that speaking in tongues is the initial evidence when Christ baptizes in the Holy Spirit. (See Article 5.6.3)

#### **5.1 — HOLY SCRIPTURES**

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God<sup>1</sup> by which we understand the whole Bible to be inspired in the sense that holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the very words of Scripture.<sup>2</sup> Divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the original writings. The whole Bible in the original is, therefore, without error and, as such, is infallible, absolutely supreme and sufficient in authority in all matters of faith and practice.<sup>3</sup>

The Bible does not simply contain the Word of God, but is, in reality, the complete revelation and very Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit. Christian believers today receive spiritual illumination to enable them to understand the Scriptures,<sup>4</sup> but God does not grant new revelations that are contrary or additional to inspired biblical truth.<sup>5</sup>

#### **5.2 — THE GODHEAD**

The Godhead exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having the same nature and attributes and are worthy of the same homage, confidence, and obedience.<sup>6</sup>

##### **5.2.1 — THE FATHER**

The Father exists eternally as the Creator of heaven and earth, the Giver of the Law, to whom all things will be subjected, so that He may be all in all.<sup>7</sup>

##### **5.2.2 — THE SON**

The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal and only begotten Son of the Father, is true God and true man.<sup>8</sup> He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,<sup>9</sup> and by His sinless life, miracles and teaching, gave full revelation of the Father.<sup>10</sup>

He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitution sacrifice.<sup>11</sup> He rose from the dead.<sup>12</sup> He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest.<sup>13</sup> He will come again to establish His kingdom in righteousness and peace.<sup>14</sup>

##### **5.2.3 — THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is also God, performing actions and possessing the attributes of the Deity.<sup>15</sup> His personality is shown by the fact that He has personal characteristics and that individuals may relate to Him as a person.<sup>16</sup>

#### **5.3 — ANGELS**

##### **5.3.1 — CLASSIFICATION**

Angels were created as intelligent and powerful beings to do the will of God and worship Him.<sup>17</sup> However, Satan, the originator of sin, fell through pride and was followed by those angels who rebelled against God. These fallen angels or demons are active in opposing the purposes of God.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17

<sup>2</sup> 2 Pet. 1: 20,21

<sup>3</sup> Psa. 119:160; Matt. 5:17,18

<sup>4</sup> 1 Cor. 2:12-14

<sup>5</sup> Prov. 30:5,6

<sup>6</sup> Matt. 3:16,17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14

<sup>7</sup> Gen. 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:28

<sup>8</sup> John 1:1,14; 10:30,17; Phil. 2:6,7; Heb. 1:8

<sup>9</sup> Luke 1:26-35

<sup>10</sup> John 12:49; Acts 2:22; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26

<sup>11</sup> Rom. 5:6,8; 1 Cor. 15:3; 1Pet. 3:18

<sup>12</sup> Matt. 28:6; 1 Cor. 15:4,20

<sup>13</sup> Acts 1:9-11; 2:33; Heb. 8:1

<sup>14</sup> Matt. 25:31

<sup>15</sup> Acts 5:3,4

<sup>16</sup> John 16:13-14

<sup>17</sup> Psa. 103:20; Rev. 5:11,12

<sup>18</sup> Isa. 14:12-17, Eze. 28:11-19; Eph. 6:11-12; 1Tim. 4:1; Jude 6

— Those who remained faithful continue before the throne of God and serve as ministering spirits.<sup>19</sup>

### **5.3.2 — THE BELIEVER AND DEMONS**

— Demons attempt to thwart God's purposes; however, in Christ, the believer may have complete liberty from the influence of demons.<sup>20</sup> The believer cannot be possessed by them because the believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit in which Christ dwells as Lord.<sup>21</sup>

## **5.4 — HUMANITY**

— Humans were originally created in the image and likeness of God.<sup>22</sup> They fell through sin and, as a consequence, incurred both spiritual and physical death.<sup>23</sup> Spiritual death and the depravity of human nature have been transmitted to the entire human race<sup>24</sup> with the exception of the Man Christ Jesus.<sup>25</sup> Humans can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>26</sup>

## **5.5 — SALVATION**

### **5.5.1 — ATONEMENT OF CHRIST**

— Salvation has been provided for all people through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross.<sup>27</sup> It is the only perfect redemption and substitution atonement for all the sins of the world, both original and actual. His atoning work has been proven by His resurrection from the dead.<sup>28</sup> Those who repent and believe in Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and receive eternal life.<sup>29</sup> Furthermore, in the atonement, divine healing was provided for all believers.<sup>30</sup>

### **5.5.2 — REPENTANCE AND FAITH**

— A person can be born again only through faith in Christ. Repentance, a vital part of believing, is a complete change of mind wrought by the Holy Spirit,<sup>31</sup> turning a person to God from sin.

### **5.5.3 — REGENERATION**

— Regeneration is a creative work of the Holy Spirit by which a person is born again and receives spiritual life.<sup>32</sup>

### **5.5.4 — JUSTIFICATION**

— Justification is a judicial act of God by which the sinner is declared righteous solely on the basis of their acceptance of Christ as Saviour.<sup>33</sup>

## **5.6 — THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE**

### **5.6.1 — ASSURANCE**

— Assurance of salvation is the privilege of all who are born again by the Spirit through faith in Christ,<sup>34</sup> resulting in love, gratitude and obedience toward God.

### **5.6.2 — SANCTIFICATION**

— Sanctification is dedication to God and separation from evil.<sup>35</sup> In experience it is both instantaneous<sup>36</sup> and progressive.<sup>37</sup> It is produced in the life of the believer by the appropriation of the power of Christ's blood and risen life through the person of the Holy Spirit;<sup>38</sup> He draws the believer's attention to Christ, teaches them through the Word and produces the character of Christ within them.<sup>39</sup> Believers who sin must repent and seek forgiveness through faith in the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ.<sup>40</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Heb. 1:14

<sup>20</sup> Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8; 4:1-4

<sup>21</sup> Matt. 6:24; 1 Cor. 6:19,20

<sup>22</sup> Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:7

<sup>23</sup> Rom. 5:12; James 1:14,15

<sup>24</sup> Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-19, 23

<sup>25</sup> Heb. 7:26

<sup>26</sup> John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5,6

<sup>27</sup> Isa. 53:3-6; John 12:32,33; 1 Pet. 2:24

<sup>28</sup> Acts 2:36; Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:14,17,20; Heb. 10:12; 1 John 2:2

<sup>29</sup> Acts 20:21; 1 Pet. 1:23,25

<sup>30</sup> Isa. 53:4,5; Matt. 8:16b,17

<sup>31</sup> Isa. 55:7; Acts 17:30; Gal. 3:22,26; Eph. 2:8; 1 John 5:10-13

<sup>32</sup> John 3:3b,5b,7; 2 Cor. 5:17,18a; 1 Pet. 1:23

<sup>33</sup> Rom. 3:24; 4:3-5; 5:1-2

<sup>34</sup> John 10:27-29; Rom. 8:35-39

<sup>35</sup> 2 Cor. 6:14; 7:1

<sup>36</sup> John 17:17,19; Heb. 10:10,14

<sup>37</sup> 1 Thes. 5:23; 2 Tim. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 1:14-16

<sup>38</sup> Rom. 6:11,13,14,18

<sup>39</sup> 1 Cor. 13; Gal. 5:22, 23; 2 Pet. 1:3-4

<sup>40</sup> 1 John 1:9; 2:1-2

### **5.6.3 — BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience in which believers yield control of themselves to the Holy Spirit.<sup>41</sup> Through this the believer comes to know Christ in a more intimate way<sup>42</sup> and receives power to witness and grow spiritually.<sup>43</sup> Believers should earnestly seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>44</sup> The initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.<sup>45</sup> This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth.<sup>46</sup>

### **5.6.4 — THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural abilities given by God through the exercising of which believers are enabled to minister effectively and directly in particular situations.<sup>47</sup> They serve the dual function of building up the church and of demonstrating the presence of God within His church.<sup>48</sup>

### **5.6.5 — DIVINE HEALING**

Divine healing provided in the atonement of Christ<sup>49</sup> is the privilege of all believers. Prayer for the sick and gifts of healing are encouraged and practised.<sup>50</sup>

## **5.7 — THE CHURCH**

### **5.7.1 — THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**

All who are born again are members of the universal church, which is the Body and Bride of Christ.<sup>51</sup>

### **5.7.2 — THE LOCAL CHURCH**

#### **5.7.2.1 — PURPOSE**

The local church is a body of believers in Christ who have joined together to function as a part of the universal church.<sup>52</sup> The local church is ordained by God and provides a context in which believers corporately worship God<sup>53</sup>; observe the ordinances of the church, are instructed in the faith and are equipped for the evangelization of the world.<sup>54</sup>

#### **5.7.2.2 — ORDINANCES**

##### **5.7.2.2.1 — THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The Lord's Supper is a symbol, memorial and proclamation of the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. This ordinance of communion is to be participated in by believers until Christ's return.<sup>55</sup>

##### **5.7.2.2.2 WATER BAPTISM**

Water baptism signifies the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and is practised by immersion.<sup>56</sup>

##### **5.7.2.3 — MINISTRY**

A divinely called and ordained ministry is the provision of the Lord to give leadership to the church as it fulfils its purposes.<sup>57</sup>

## **5.8 — THE END OF TIME**

### **5.8.1 — THE PRESENT STATE OF THE DEAD**

At death the souls of believers pass immediately into the presence of Christ,<sup>58</sup> and these remain in constant bliss until

<sup>41</sup> Matt. 3:11; Acts 1:5; Eph. 5:18

<sup>42</sup> John 16:13-15

<sup>43</sup> Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 3:18

<sup>44</sup> Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8

<sup>45</sup> Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6

<sup>46</sup> Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46

<sup>47</sup> 1 Cor. 12:4-11

<sup>48</sup> 1 Cor. 12:7; 14:12, 24-25

<sup>49</sup> Matt. 8:16, 17

<sup>50</sup> 1 Cor. 12:28-30; James 5:14

<sup>51</sup> 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 5:25b; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:15

<sup>52</sup> Acts 14:23; 1 Cor. 16:19

<sup>53</sup> John 4:23; Acts 20:7

<sup>54</sup> Acts 1:8; 11:19-24; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 5:2

<sup>55</sup> Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-26

<sup>56</sup> Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38, 41; 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5

<sup>57</sup> Acts 6:2b-4c; 13:2-4a; 14:23; Eph. 4:8, 11-13

<sup>58</sup> 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:21, 23-24

the resurrection of the glorified body.<sup>59</sup> The souls of unbelievers remain after death conscious of condemnation<sup>60</sup> until the final bodily resurrection and judgment of the unjust.<sup>61</sup>

#### **5.8.2 — THE RAPTURE**

The rapture, the blessed hope of the church, is the imminent coming of the Lord in the air to receive to Himself His own, both the living who shall be transformed, and the dead in Christ who shall be resurrected.<sup>62</sup> This event takes place before the wrath of God is poured out during the tribulation. Believers then will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged according to faithfulness in Christian service.<sup>63</sup>

#### **5.8.3 — THE TRIBULATION**

The tribulation will be a time of judgment on the whole earth.<sup>64</sup> During this period the Antichrist will emerge to offer false hope to the nations.<sup>65</sup>

#### **5.8.4 — THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

The return of Christ to earth in power and great glory will conclude the great tribulation with the victory at Armageddon,<sup>66</sup> the defeat of Antichrist and the binding of Satan.<sup>67</sup> Christ will introduce the millennial age,<sup>68</sup> restore Israel to her own land, lift the curse which now rests upon the whole creation, and bring the whole world to the knowledge of God.<sup>69</sup>

#### **5.8.5 — THE FINAL JUDGMENT**

There will be a final judgment in which the unbelieving dead will be raised and judged at the great white throne, according to their works.<sup>70</sup>

The beast and false prophet, the devil and his angels, and whoever is not found in the Book of Life, shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to annihilation but to everlasting punishment, which is the second death.<sup>71</sup>

#### **5.8.6 — THE ETERNAL STATE OF THE RIGHTEOUS**

The righteous will share the glory of God in the new heaven and the new earth for eternity.<sup>72</sup>

*AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT references to the “Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths” in the General Constitution and By-Laws and the Local Church Constitution be amended to “Statement of Essential Truths and Positions and Practices” where appropriate.*

*AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT paragraph 2 in By-Law 10.2 be amended as follows:*

#### **10.2 QUALIFICATIONS TO RECEIVE AND RETAIN CREDENTIALS**

...  
All applicants for credentials shall have a personal experience of salvation and shall have received the **Spirit** baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence **sign** of speaking in other tongues, and shall personally subscribe to *The Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths* **and Positions and Practices** of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

### **RESOLUTION #19 ARTICLE 5.9 POSITIONS AND PRACTICES**

*WHEREAS Article 5, Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths, is incorporated into the General Constitution and By-Laws;*

*AND WHEREAS Articles 5.1 to 5.8 are the essential truths as approved by the General Conference;*

<sup>59</sup> Rom 8:22-23; 1 Cor. 15:42-44; 2 Cor. 5:1,4b

<sup>60</sup> Luke 16:22-31; John 3:36

<sup>61</sup> Dan.12:2; John 5:28-29; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Rev 20:11-15

<sup>62</sup> 1 Cor. 15:51-57; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13

<sup>63</sup> Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Cor 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:9-10

<sup>64</sup> Matt. 24:15, 21-22; 1 Thess. 5:1-3

<sup>65</sup> 2 Thess. 2:3-12; Rev. 13:11-18

<sup>66</sup> Matt. 24:27, 30; Luke 17:24, 26-30

<sup>67</sup> Rev. 16:12-16; 17:8, 12-14; 19:11-20

<sup>68</sup> Psa. 2:6-12; Dan. 2:44-45; Luke 22:29-30; Rev. 3:21; 20:6

<sup>69</sup> Isa. 1:24-27; 2:1-4; Zech. 14:3,4,9; Rom. 8:19-23; Rev. 22:3

<sup>70</sup> Dan. 7:9-10; John 12:48; Rom. 2:2,6,11,16; Rev. 14:9-11; 20:11-15

<sup>71</sup> Matt. 25:41b; Jude 6; Rev. 20:10,15; 21:8

<sup>72</sup> Matt. 13:43; John 17:24; 2 Pet. 3:13; Heb. 11:10; Rev. 21:1-2, 10, 22-23

AND WHEREAS Article 5.9 Positions and Practices are distinct from the core theological essential truths and may also be reviewed and amended by the General Conference from time to time;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a new Article 6 be created called Positions and Practices and that Article 5.9 be renumbered to Article 6 and separated from the Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that additional references in the General Constitution and By-Laws and the Local Church Constitution be updated accordingly.

**ARTICLE 6 5.9 POSITIONS AND PRACTICES:**

**RESOLUTION #20 ARTICLE 6.1 GENDER**

WHEREAS the definition of gender carries changing meanings in our Canadian and global society;

AND WHEREAS the PAOC holds a Biblical understanding of male and female, as defined in the proposed new Article 5.3 CREATION;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT ARTICLE 6.1 GENDER be amended by addition as follows:

**6.1 GENDER**

We believe in the biblical teaching of God's original and ongoing design for humanity as two distinct sexes, male and female, determined by genetics. The basis and the intent for this is the conviction that the matter of human sexuality and gender is fundamental to biblical cosmology and anthropology, not merely biblical morality. Due to human sin and brokenness, our experience of our sex and gender is not always that which God the Creator originally designed. In light of this foundational understanding of creation, fall, and redemption, we will avoid any behaviour or alignment with identity that contradicts the biblical teaching. We do not affirm the resolution of tension between one's biological sex and one's experience of gender by the adoption of an identity contradictory with one's birth sex.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ARTICLE 6 be renumbered accordingly.

**RESOLUTION #21 BY-LAW 10.2 PROVISIONAL CREDENTIALS AND SPIRIT BAPTISM**

WHEREAS God places a call to ministry upon individuals who also desire to hold ministerial credentials with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada to confirm, validate and support 1) the call, 2) their agreement with the doctrine of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and 3) the appointment to a ministry position while having ministry relationship, accountability and covering;

AND WHEREAS initial credential applications are welcomed and encouraged from all individuals desiring ministerial credentials who are in agreement with the doctrine of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada;

AND WHEREAS there are some initial credential applicants who believe and agree with the specific doctrine of Spirit baptism with the sign of speaking in other tongues but have not personally received and experienced Spirit baptism while they are seeking constantly to be filled;

AND WHEREAS consideration for such an applicant could be given by approving an initial credential applicant for a ministerial credential, with restrictions, while having ministry relationship, accountability and covering under The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada;

AND WHEREAS the granting of a Provisional Ministry Related credential would be limited in that it does not provide a vote at a district or General Conference and would not permit the holder of this credential to be eligible for the position of Senior Pastor at a Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada church without subsequently receiving Spirit baptism;

AND WHEREAS a Provisional Ministry Related credential would be an exception, to be reviewed by the district annually, specific to the requirement for the personal experience of Spirit baptism with the sign of speaking in other tongues as

outlined in By-Law 10.2;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.2 (paragraph 2) be amended as follows:

## **10.2 QUALIFICATIONS TO RECEIVE AND RETAIN CREDENTIALS**

...

All applicants for credentials shall have a personal experience of salvation and shall have received ~~the~~ **Spirit baptism in the Holy Spirit** with the ~~initial evidence~~ **sign** of speaking in other tongues, and shall personally subscribe to *The Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths* of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. **Consideration may be made for an applicant to be granted a Provisional Ministry Related credential, who is seeking constantly, but has not yet received Spirit baptism with the sign of speaking in other tongues.**

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT a new Exception category be created as follows under 10.2.11 MINISTRY RELATED CREDENTIAL:

### **10.2.11.3 EXCEPTIONS**

**10.2.11.3.1 This credential may be granted to a person who is under the ministry and authority of a district approved mentor and who is seeking constantly to receive Spirit baptism with the sign of speaking in other tongues.**

**This credential does not permit the holder to be eligible for the position of Senior Pastor until Spirit baptism has been received.**

**The district executive can request an exemption to grant this Provisional Ministry Related credential, which will be reviewed annually by the District Executive.**

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the remaining section below be renumbered accordingly.