



THE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA
Halifax Convention Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia

57th GENERAL CONFERENCE
May 4-6, 2026
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
MINUTES

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION
TUESDAY MAY 5, 2026

The Chair, Rev. D. Wells, welcomed participants to the 57th Biennial General Conference. The first business session was called to order at 2:10 PM.

The Chair noted that the conference is ruled by the *General Constitution and By-Laws* of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and the parliamentary procedures will be ruled by *Robert's Rules of Order*. He introduced the parliamentarians, Rev. J. Shepherd (c), Rev. Dr. B. Mgonja, Rev. T. Poirier, and Rev. J. Reid (online parliamentarian).

Rev. C. Burton provided the voting instructions throughout the business session. The Chair declared the poll open for the first two procedural items: Establishment of Voting Bar, and Recognition of the Conference Committees as appointed by the Executive Officers. The ballots were cast. The ballot for the first two procedural items was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GC 26-01 **VOTING BAR:** It was MOVED and SECONDED that the voting bar be designated by those who are voting members and who have received the first procedural poll on the Whova App. CARRIED

GC 26-02 **CONFERENCE COMMITTEES:** It was MOVED and SECONDED that the conference committees be recognized as presented. CARRIED

The Chair extended a welcome to all credential holders, lay delegates and guests joining in person and online. Appreciation was expressed to the former Executive Officers attending in person: Rev. K. Parks, Rev. Wm. Morrow, Rev. L. Markham, and Rev. R. Davis, and those unable to attend in person: Rev. D. Ball, and Rev. S. Hunter, who has served as the Chair of the Pre-Conference Nomination Committee. Special acknowledgement was paid to former Executive Officer, the late Rev. G. Upton, who passed away April 25th and just prior to his 100th birthday on June 22nd.

Appreciation was expressed to the Maritime District. Rev. K. Johnson, District Superintendent, was invited to bring greetings from the Maritime District.

The next procedural items were presented: Approval of Agenda, Approval of the 2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes, and Receiving of the Roster Report. The Chair declared the poll open for the next procedural items.

A Motion was received from the floor to adjust the order of the Conference Agenda to allow for the Report of the General Superintendent prior to elections.

Following consultation by the Chair with the Parliamentary Committee, a revised poll to amend the Agenda to have the General Superintendent's Report prior to elections was presented.

The ballots were cast. The ballot for the procedural items was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GC 26-03 **AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AGENDA:** It was MOVED and SECONDED to amend the Agenda to allow for the Report of the General Superintendent prior to elections.

In Favor 351
Opposed 132

CARRIED

GC 26-04 **MINUTES OF THE 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Minutes of the March 25, 2025 Annual General Meeting which convened in-person in Mississauga, ON and online, be approved as printed and distributed online. CARRIED

GC 26-05 **ROSTER REPORT:** The Chair of the Roster Committee, S. Thomson, read the Roster Report.

Voting – In Person	565
Voting – Online	95
TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS	660

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Roster Report be accepted as read.

CARRIED

GC 26-06 **AMENDED AGENDA OF THE 57th GENERAL CONFERENCE:** It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Amended General Conference Agenda be approved. CARRIED

D. Wells welcomed our fraternal guests from the Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland and Labrador (PAONL): Rev. T. Snow, General Superintendent, Rev. F. Roberts, General Secretary Treasurer, and Rev. J. Nippard, Executive Director, Ministry Development & Strategic Initiatives. Rev. T. Snow brought greetings.

Rev. M. Cornelius welcomed our Mission Global Partners and Global Workers in attendance: Bishop Kenneth Adiera, General Superintendent, Pentecostal Assemblies of God Kenya; Bishop Simon Peter Emiau, Uganda; Pastor and Mrs. Zowa Munetsi and Amina Zowa; Dr. Bal Krishna Sharma, President, Nepal Theological Seminary; Dhruv and Rita Prasad, Bokaro Steel City, India; Ivan and Sheila Satyavrata, Kolkata, India; Rev. Sonny Williams, General Superintendent, Pentecostal Assemblies of West Indies and Mrs. Maureen Williams; Bishop Philip Adhikary and Samuel Adhikary, Pentecostal Assemblies of Bangladesh.

D. Wells vacated the Chair. C. Burton assumed the Chair.

GC 26-07 **REPORT OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT – Part One:** D. Wells presented the first part of his report, addressing the significant challenges that have been faced during the process of the systems upgrade at the international office. On behalf of the Executive Officers, he expressed sincere apologies to the constituency, and especially to the Mission Global and Mission Canada Workers that have been impacted, for the extreme angst this situation has caused.

H. Card, an independent consultant commissioned by the General Executive to serve on the Finance and Structure Review Committee (FSRC), was invited to share on behalf of the FSRC. She reviewed the challenges and disruptions in our systems and structures that have impacted staff, Global Workers, and Mission Canada Workers. The General Executive is continuing to provide oversight of the process over the next 12-24 months and is highly committed to ensuring that these matters are addressed with consistency and care.

Extensive questions and dialogue received from the floor were addressed by H. Card and the Executive Officers.

The following Motion was received from the floor:

It was MOVED and SECONDED that Part One of the General Superintendent's report be approved with the Conference request that the committee appointed by the General Executive not only address the issues previously identified and those expressed in discussion from the floor and continue to consult front line Mission Global Workers, Mission Canada Workers, and donors AND report its findings and recommendations to the General Executive, BUT ALSO that the General Executive present a report on this matter, including any recommendations, to the next regular meeting of the General Conference.

In Favor 420
Opposed 40

CARRIED

C. Burton vacated the Chair. D. Wells assumed the Chair.

D. Wells thanked the conference for engaging the matter with openness and honesty. He assured the conference that this process is being addressed with the highest priority, as we continue to focus on our mission globally and in Canada.

The meeting was recessed at 4:30 PM. Rev. T. Woodcock closed in prayer.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 2026

The second Business Session was called to order on Wednesday, May 6 at 1:35 PM.

D. Wells vacated the Chair. C. Burton assumed the Chair.

GC 26-08 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT – Part Two: D. Wells expressed appreciation to his fellow Executive Officers for their continued commitment to operating in alignment with our mission. Rev. B. Egert, Director of Mission Canada, highlighted the ongoing ministry of Mission Canada workers as they seek to address the mission gaps across Canada. Rev. J. Raible, Church Vitalization and Health, reported that coaches are available to assist churches in developing clear discipleship pathways. Rev. P. Fraser, Director of Multiply Network, shared ministry highlights and emphasized the need for vital churches that multiply. D. Wells expressed appreciation to Rev. T. Holownia for his work in evangelism.

Rev. P. Cusick, National Prayer Network Coordinator, was invited to lead the conference in a time of prayer for our nation.

C. Burton vacated the chair. D. Wells resumed the chair.

GC 26-09 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY TREASURER: C. Burton presented highlights of the various areas of ministry within Fellowship Services, noting a solid financial position with \$31.5M in reserves for future ministry. Donations increased 4.95% in 2025 over 2024 and Fellowship Tithes increased 16.3%, while operating expenses decreased slightly. A total of 26 disciple-making communities were started in 2025, comprised of 6 self-governing churches, 8 church plants, and 12 satellites, bringing our total disciple-making communities to 1,210. Based on the 2025 Annual Church Life Report, there were 18,230 salvations, 3,618 Spirit baptisms, and 9,853 water baptisms. There are currently 3,797 credential holders.

Words of appreciation were expressed to L. Hummel, Executive Director of the PAOC Pension Fund and Rev. D. Kingston, Executive Director of Stewardship. C. Burton expressed appreciation for the honor of serving our Pentecostal family, and for his fellow Executive Officers and the members of the General Executive. He expressed sorrow for the challenges over the past year with the implementation of the new financial system. He assured the conference that the concerns that were voiced in this regard have been heard and are being addressed as we work together with our Finance and Structure Review Committee as implemented by the General Executive.

Several questions received from the floor were addressed.

Rev. K. Johnson was invited to present the pre-conference nomination results for the General Secretary Treasurer, on behalf of the Pre-Conference Nominations Committee Chair, Rev. S. Hunter.

GC 26-10 **PRE-CONFERENCE NOMINATION BALLOT FOR GENERAL SECRETARY TREASURER:** The following pre-conference nomination ballots resulted in a ratification ballot for C. Burton for the position of General Secretary Treasurer.

Ballots Cast	408	
Ballots Required to Elect	272	
Votes Received	291	(71%)

GC 26-11 **RATIFICATION BALLOT FOR GENERAL SECRETARY TREASURER:** The Chair provided voting instructions. The ballots were distributed and cast. The ballot was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GC 26-12 **RESULTS OF THE RATIFICATION BALLOT FOR GENERAL SECRETARY TREASURER:**

Ballots Cast	500	
Ballots Required to Elect	251	
In Favor	293	(58.7%)
Opposed	206	(41.3%)

C. Burton was re-elected as the General Secretary Treasurer. Rev. and Mrs. Burton were invited to address the conference and expressed appreciation for the honor of serving in this capacity. D. Wells led the conference in prayer for Rev. & Mrs. Burton.

A Motion was presented to the Conference:

GC 26-13 **INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION:** Whereas an allegation was made from the floor concerning possible unethical pressure on Global Workers and Mission Canada Workers to remain silent concerning issues pertaining to system failures related to donations, it was MOVED and SECONDED that an independent investigation be conducted to determine whether this is the case and to report back to the next General Conference.

In Favor	324	
Opposed	211	CARRIED

Rev. K. Johnson presented the pre-conference nomination results for the Executive Director for Mission Global, on behalf of the Pre-Conference Nominations Committee Chair, Rev. S. Hunter.

GC 26-14 **REPORT OF THE NOMINATION BALLOT FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MISSION GLOBAL:**
The pre-conference nomination ballots resulted in the following:

Ballots Cast	429	
Ballots Required to Elect	286	
Rev. Dr. Jeremy Feller	125	(29%)
Rev. Darcy McAlister	61	(14%)
Rev. Jeff Kelly	42	(9%)

Photos for each candidate were displayed on the screen, and their biographies were read.

GC 26-15 **FIRST ELECTION BALLOT FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MISSION GLOBAL:** The Chair declared the first election ballot for the Executive Director for Mission Global open. The ballots were cast. The first election ballot for the Executive Director for Mission Global was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GC 26-16 **RESULTS OF THE FIRST ELECTION BALLOT FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MISSION GLOBAL:**

Ballots Cast	538
Ballots Required for Election	358

Rev. Jeremy Feller	334	(62.1%)
Rev. Darcy McAlister	107	(19.9%)
Rev. Jeff Kelly	97	(18.0%)

GG 26-17 **SECOND ELECTION BALLOT FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MISSION GLOBAL:** The Chair declared the second election ballot for the Executive Director for Mission Global open. The ballots were cast. The second election ballot for the Executive Director for Mission Global was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GC 26-18 **RESULTS OF THE SECOND ELECTION BALLOT FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MISSION GLOBAL:**

Ballots Cast	533	
Ballots Required to Elect	355	
Rev. Jeremy Feller	395	(74.1%)
Rev. Darcy McAlister	81	(15.2%)
Rev. Jeff Kelly	57	(10.7%)

Rev. Jeremy Feller was elected as the Executive Director for Mission Global. Rev. Feller expressed appreciation for this vote of confidence. Bishop Simon Peter Emiau led the Conference in prayer for Rev. & Mrs. Feller.

GC 26-19 **FIRST ELECTION BALLOT FOR THE CREDENTIALLED MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE:** The Chair presented the names as nominated by the respective district conferences.

Nominees:

Rev. D. Latham	British Columbia & Yukon District
Rev. P. Kniesel	Alberta & Northwest Territories District
Rev. K. Mullin	Saskatchewan District
Rev. M. Gordon	Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario District
Rev. K. Shepherd	Western Ontario District
K. Hsieh	Eastern Ontario & Nunavut District
Rev. J. Laroche	Quebec District
Rev. J. Molloy	Maritime District

The Chair provided voting instructions. The ballots were cast. The ballot was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GC 26-20 **RESULTS OF THE FIRST ELECTION BALLOT FOR THE CREDENTIALLED MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE:** The results of the first election ballot for the Credentialed Members to the General Executive were shared.

Ballots Cast	492	
Ballots Necessary for Election	247	
Rev. K. Shepherd	305	(61.9%) ELECTED
Rev. P. Kniesel	232	(47.2%)
K. Hsieh	205	(41.7%)
Rev. D. Latham	194	(39.4%)
Rev. J. Molloy	189	(38.4%)
Rev. J. Laroche	120	(24.4%)
Rev. K. Mullin	78	(15.9%)
Rev. M. Gordon	68	(13.8%)

Rev. K. Shepherd was declared elected.

GC 26-21 **SECOND ELECTION BALLOT FOR THE CREDENTIALLED MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE:** The Chair presented the names eligible for election on the second ballot.

Nominees:

Rev. P. Kniesel	232	(47.2%)
K. Hsieh	205	(41.7%)
Rev. D. Latham	194	(39.4%)
Rev. J. Molloy	189	(38.4%)
Rev. J. Laroche	120	(24.4%)
Rev. K. Mullin	78	(15.9%)

The Chair provided voting instructions. The ballots were cast. The ballot was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GC 26-22 **RESULTS OF THE SECOND ELECTION BALLOT FOR THE CREDENTIALLED MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE:** The results of the second election ballot for the Credentialed Members to the General Executive were shared.

Ballots Cast	461	
Ballots necessary for election	231	
K. Hsieh	244	(52.9%) ELECTED
Rev. P. Kniesel	244	(52.9%) ELECTED
Rev. D. Latham	151	(32.8%)
Rev. J. Molloy	136	(29.5%)
Rev. J. Laroche	75	(16.3%)
Rev. K. Mullin	43	(9.3%)

K. Hsieh and Rev. P. Kniesel were declared elected.

GC 26-23 **FIRST ELECTION BALLOT FOR LAY MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE:** The Chair presented the names as nominated by the respective district conferences.

Nominees:

C. Hornby Allen	British Columbia & Yukon District
M. Kaup	Alberta & Northwest Territories District
N. Cressman	Saskatchewan District
S. Bambridge	Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario District
B. Asante-Yirenkyi	Western Ontario District
S. Shew	Eastern Ontario & Nunavut District
D. Cameron	Maritime District

The Chair provided voting instructions. The ballots were cast. The ballot was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GC 26-24 **RESULTS OF THE FIRST ELECTION BALLOT FOR THE LAY MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE:** The results of the first election ballot for the Lay Members to the General Executive were shared.

Ballots Cast	404	
Ballots necessary for election	203	
C. Hornby Allen	265	(65.6%) ELECTED
S. Shew	208	(51.5%) ELECTED
B. Asante-Yirenkyi	153	(37.9%)
S. Bambridge	151	(37.3%)
D. Cameron	120	(29.7%)
N. Cressman	115	(28.5%)
M. Kaup	110	(27.2%)

C. Hornby Allen and S. Shew were declared elected.

GC 26-25 **SECOND ELECTION BALLOT FOR THE LAY MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE:** The Chair presented the names eligible for election on the second ballot.

Nominees:

B. Asante-Yirenkyi	153	(37.9%)
S. Bambridge	151	(37.3%)
D. Cameron	120	(29.7%)
N. Cressman	115	(28.5%)

The Chair provided voting instructions. The ballots were cast. The ballot was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GC 26-26 **RESULTS OF THE SECOND ELECTION BALLOT FOR THE LAY MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE:** The results of the second election ballot for the Lay Members to the General Executive were shared.

Ballots Cast	304	
Ballots necessary for election	153	
B. Asante-Yirenkyi	123	(40.5%)
S. Bambridge	85	(28.0%)
D. Cameron	60	(19.7%)
N. Cressman	36	(11.8%)

No election was declared.

GC 26-27 **EXTENSION OF BUSINESS SESSION:** It was MOVED and SECONDED to extend the business session until the business of the conference is completed. **CARRIED**

GC 26-28 **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MISSION GLOBAL:** M. Cornelius acknowledged the presence of baby Judah Ostermeyer in the session with his parents and expressed deep appreciation to the conference for their support of the Ostermeyer family, who are Global Workers, during a very difficult time. He reported that a total of \$75,000 was raised at the evening service on Tuesday, May 5 to support our Global Workers and Mission Canada workers in light of the current system difficulties.

The conference expressed appreciation to M. Cornelius for his excellent leadership, by way of a standing ovation.

GC 26-29 **THIRD ELECTION BALLOT FOR THE LAY MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE:** The Chair presented the names eligible for election on the third ballot.

Nominees:

B. Asante-Yirenkyi	123	(40.5%)
S. Bambridge	85	(28.0%)
D. Cameron	60	(19.7%)

The Chair provided voting instructions. The ballots were cast. The ballot was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GC 26-30 **RESULTS OF THE THIRD ELECTION BALLOT FOR THE LAY MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE:** The results of the third election ballot for the Lay Members to the General Executive were shared.

Ballots Cast	397	
Ballots necessary for election	199	
B. Asante-Yirenkyi	187	(47.1%)
S. Bambridge	129	(32.5%)

D. Cameron 81 (20.4%)

No election was declared.

GC 26-31 **FOURTH ELECTION BALLOT FOR THE LAY MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE:** The Chair presented the names eligible for election on the fourth ballot.

Nominees:

B. Asante-Yirenkyi 187 (47.1%)

S. Bambridge 129 (32.5%)

The Chair provided voting instructions. The ballots were cast. The ballot was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GC 26-32 **RESULTS OF THE FOURTH ELECTION BALLOT FOR THE LAY MEMBERS TO THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE:** The results of the fourth election ballot for the Lay Members to the General Executive were shared.

Ballots Cast 326

Ballots necessary for election 164

B. Asante-Yirenkyi 189 (58.0%) ELECTED

S. Bambridge 137 (42.0%)

B. Asante-Yirenkyi was declared elected.

Mr. E. Lutes was invited to begin presenting the Resolutions.

B. Mgonja from the Alberta/Northwest Territories District Office addressed Resolution #11, which was brought forward from the April 15, 2026 Special Meeting of the 2026 General Conference.

GC 26-33 **RESOLUTION #11** LCC Article 3 Prerogatives and Directives
It was MOVED and SECONDED that the following amendment be approved:

WHEREAS clarity in procedure and governance safeguards is essential in the closure, dissolution, or winding up of self-governing assemblies; and

WHEREAS the acquisition and disposal of real property by local churches carry both spiritual and legal implications that affect the integrity of the mission of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada; and

WHEREAS consistent accountability structures include appropriate District involvement and oversight; and

WHEREAS greater alignment across affiliated assemblies safeguards missional integrity, preserves charitable assets, and ensures consistent application of spiritual and legal best practices;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article 3 of the Local Church Constitution and By-Laws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE 3 PREROGATIVES AND DIRECTIVES

3.1 This local church shall ~~have the right to~~ govern itself according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace ... till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:3, 13).

3.2 This local church shall ~~have the right to~~ govern itself according to the *General Constitution and By-Laws* and district constitutions and by-laws in force by order of General Conference and district conferences.

3.2.1 3.3 This local church shall have the right to develop policies and procedures which guide its operation as determined by the [leadership] or the congregation.

3.2.2 3.4 This local church shall have the right to purchase or acquire by gift, bequest or otherwise, either directly or as trustee, and to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of any real estate or chattels as may be necessary for the furtherance of its purpose; all in accordance with its constitution and by-laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

3.2.3 3.5 This local church shall have the right to borrow any sum or sums of money from a lender upon the credit of the local church either by way of overdraft, discount, loan, line of credit or otherwise, and upon such terms as they may think proper and as security for any money so borrowed or as security for any advances, reliabilities heretofore made or incurred or that may hereafter be made or incurred, to hypothecate, mortgage, pledge and give to the lender all or any stock, bonds, debentures, negotiable instruments, in action or other real property of the local church or other assets of the local church as they may see fit, or as may be required by or on behalf of the lender, and it is expressly declared that any security given pursuant to this article may be by way of chattel mortgage or in such other form as the lender may require, or as this local church sees fit.

3.2.4 3.6 The activities of this local church shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions to the organization shall be used solely to promote its objectives, in accordance with its constitution and by-laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

3.2.5 3.7 The decision to formally cease operations as a congregation shall require not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of eligible votes a simple majority vote of the ballots cast at a duly called meeting.

3.2.6 3.8 In the event of dissolution or winding up of the organization, all its remaining assets after payment of liabilities shall be distributed to The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada for its continuing ministries.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article 9 of the Local Church Constitution be amended as follows:

ARTICLE 9 PROPERTY: All real estate owned by this local church shall be held in the name of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada according to the terms of the *Declaration of Trust*, or, by the trustees of the local church as a local church of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada or, in the case of an incorporated local church, may be held by the local church in its corporate name as a local church of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

The acquiring and disposal of real property shall be decided by ~~a two thirds (2/3) majority of the eligible votes cast at a duly called congregational business meeting. Where property is placed in trust with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada,~~ a seventy-five 75 percent (75%) majority of eligible votes cast at a duly called congregational business meeting ~~shall be required.~~

In the matter of disposing of any real property of this local church, this congregation shall be subject to the property regulations in force from time to time in the by-laws of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and the district constitution and by-laws, the applicable provincial laws, and the *Declaration of Trust*, where applicable.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 14 of the General Constitution and By-Laws be reordered and amended as follows:

BY-LAW 14 LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

~~14.1~~ NATURE, PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY OF LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

~~14.1.1~~ 14.1 Local assemblies are individual congregations which ~~that~~ are formally affiliated with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and are recognized as integral members of the fellowship the corporation shall be called local assemblies.

~~14.1.2~~ 14.2 All true believers who unite in fellowship within a local assembly and willingly accept

their personal responsibility for maintaining scriptural order and spiritual integrity shall be eligible for membership, according to the standard established by the local assembly. Such standards shall be consistent with, and subject to, the *General Constitution and By-Laws of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada* as may be associating themselves in local bodies and assemblies and accepting their full personal share of responsibility for the maintenance of scriptural order in the local body shall have a standard for membership which may be determined by the local assembly itself, subject to the rules and regulations of the General Conference in force from time to time.

14.1.3 ~~14.3~~ Local assemblies shall participate in and support the ministries of the district and the national fellowship. They cooperate in the work of the district and may send delegates to the district and national conferences and other official gatherings in accordance with the provisions of the *General Constitution and By-Laws of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada*.

14.24 Any lay delegate appointed by a local assembly affiliated with the corporation who is sent as a delegate to the district or General Conference shall be recognized as representing, for the time being, the said local assembly, and shall be entitled to vote at all meetings of the district and General Conferences. The number of such lay delegates shall be determined from time to time by resolution of the district or General Conference.

14.1.4 ~~14.19~~ Assemblies opened by workers holding ministerial credentials with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and opened with the approval of the district executive, shall be known and recognized as local assemblies of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

14.1.5 ~~14.4~~ Each self-supporting local assembly shall govern its own affairs under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, its Living Head, while maintaining cooperative relationship and accountability to The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada have the right of self-government in Jesus Christ, its Living Head, subject to the rules and regulations of the corporation from time to time in force.

14.1.6 ~~14.5~~ The ministry and activities of each local assembly shall be carried out in a spirit of stewardship and service, not for personal or financial gain. All resources, income, and property shall be devoted wholly to the advancement of the gospel and the fulfillment of the assembly's scriptural and constitutional purposes. All of the activities of the local assembly shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions to the organization shall be used solely to promote its objectives, in accordance with its constitution and by laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

14.1.7 ~~14.20~~ Each local assembly shall recognize that the district executive has the right to approve scriptural-doctrine and conduct and to disapprove of unscriptural doctrine or conduct, and to disapprove of any doctrine or conduct deemed unscriptural.

The district executive may, by formal resolution, cancel or terminate the affiliation of a local assembly with the corporation if such assembly fails to align with the District Constitution and By-Laws or the General Constitution and By-Laws, or duly adopted resolutions of the district conference, or if it ceases to subscribe to The Statement of Essential Truths and Positions and Practices as approved by the General Conference from time to time.

14.1.8 ~~14.21~~ When in need of counsel or advice, an affiliated local assembly may appeal to the district executive. Such appeals shall be considered in a spirit of cooperation, mutual respect, and commitment to the unity and mission of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

14.1.9 ~~14.25~~ The procedure for affiliation of independent assemblies with the corporation shall be as follows:

14.1.9.1 ~~14.25.1~~ The local congregation shall, at a regularly convened meeting, pass a resolution adopting *The Statement of Essential Truths and Positions and Practices* approved by the General Conference and the *Local Church Constitution* of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada or a local church constitution approved by the district executive.

14.1.9.2 ~~14.25.2~~ The said congregation shall, at a regularly convened meeting, pass a resolution authorizing the officers of the local assembly to petition to the corporation for affiliation.

14.1.9.3 ~~14.25.3~~ The General Executive of the corporation, on the recommendation of the district executive, may grant the petition for affiliation and shall forthwith thereafter notify the local congregation of its decision.

14.1.10 ~~14.18~~ Affiliated assemblies are expected to include the word "Pentecostal" in their official name, or shall include the unabbreviated phrase "Affiliated with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada" in their signage, official documents and communications.

14.1.11 ~~14.26~~ Where the matter of disaffiliation is to be included on the agenda of a congregational business meeting, a notice of such agenda item shall be delivered to the District Superintendent at least 14 days prior to such duly convened congregational meeting, such notice ensuring that the District Superintendent is provided with the opportunity to attend and present at the meeting the position of the district prior to any call for a vote on the issue of disaffiliation. A two-thirds majority of ballots cast shall be required in order for disaffiliation to proceed.

14.2 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND SELF-SUPPORT

14.2.1 ~~14.8~~ Recognizing the vital ministry and administrative services provided ~~important services rendered to this congregation by the International Office and district offices of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, each local assembly church shall~~ participate in the shared responsibility of supporting these ministries ~~support the ministry and fellowship services costs of the international and district offices.~~

Each local assembly shall forward an amount equal to 10 percent of its general fund offerings (does not include global worker offerings, building fund, or any other designated special funds) to the district office at regular intervals. These funds shall to assist in meeting the with ministry and fellowship services costs of the Fellowship at both the district and National levels.

14.2.2 ~~14.9~~ A self-supporting assembly shall be understood to mean a congregation that demonstrates stability, maturity, and accountability in the following ways:

14.2.2.1 ~~14.9.1 It One that~~ has been formally "set in order" as generally understood within the Fellowship ~~by the term.~~

14.2.2.2 ~~14.9.2 It One that~~ meets its all financial obligations by in providing an adequate place of worship, sustaining and its operations, and ensuring suitable ~~providing an adequate~~ compensation package for its staff-pastor, together with suitable parsonage facilities. Suitable parsonage facilities shall be understood to mean an adequate dwelling in good repair together with utilities such as: heat, water, electricity and telephone, or financial provision for such services, and a vehicle allowance.

14.2.2.3 ~~14.9.3 It~~ contributes faithfully shall be in a financial position to assume responsibility in contributing to the support of the district and National ministries, including ~~or branch conference with which it is affiliated, and to The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada global missions, educational institutions, and other approved initiatives~~ Bible colleges and to other responsibilities as may be determined by the General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

14.2.2.4 ~~14.9.4 It~~ exhibits spiritual and organizational maturity through shall be of sufficient maturity to have properly qualified local leadership, sound governance, and the ability available for election and be able to maintain biblical standards of discipline and doctrine among ~~ever~~ its members.

14.2.3 Each local assembly shall maintain sound financial stewardship and transparent administration in accordance with biblical principles, recognized accounting standards, and the financial guidelines established by The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Assemblies are expected to exercise integrity, accountability, and diligence in all matters of financial management to ensure the advancement of the church's mission and the honour of Christ's name.

14.3 DISCIPLINE AND MINISTERIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

14.3.1 ~~14.10~~ Each local assembly shall have the authority and responsibility ~~It shall have the right to administer discipline among to its members in accordance with the Scriptures, the principles of Christian love and restoration, and its duly adopted Constitution and By-Laws. All disciplinary actions shall be carried out prayerfully, fairly, and in a manner that upholds the integrity of~~

the church and the testimony of Jesus Christ according to the Bible and its rules and regulations.

14.3.2 ~~14.11~~ **Any Allegations concerning leading to charges in matters involving a credentialed minister pastor's right to hold credentials with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada shall be submitted in writing to the District Executive, signed by the complainant, and supported by a willingness as defined in By-Law 10.6.2 must be made to the district executive in writing, and properly signed by one who is willing to appear and give testimony regarding the matter concerning the charges.**

14.3.3 **Such allegations shall be investigated and adjudicated in accordance with the provisions of 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 ensuring due process, fairness, and pastoral care throughout the proceedings.**

14.4 PROPERTY AND TRUST REGULATIONS

14.12 All real estate owned by the local church shall be held in trust by The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada for the local church, or by the trustees of the local church as a local assembly of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, or, in the case of an incorporated church, the property may be held by the church in its corporate name as a local assembly of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

14.4.1 All real property used or owned by a local assembly shall be held in trust for the benefit of that assembly under one of the following arrangements:

14.4.1.1 In the name of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada as trustee for the local assembly;
or

14.4.1.2 By trustees duly appointed by the local assembly, acting as a recognized affiliate of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada; or

14.4.1.3 In the corporate name of the local assembly, where it is incorporated as an affiliated church within The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

14.4.2 In all cases, such property shall be administered solely for the advancement of the assembly's charitable and religious purposes, consistent with the doctrines, constitution, and by-laws of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

14.13 THE DECLARATION OF TRUST

14.4.3 All pProperty held in the name of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada shall be governed by the terms **and provisions** of the *Declaration of Trust* of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. **The Declaration of Trust of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada defines the legal and fiduciary relationship between the local assembly, the district, and the Fellowship concerning the ownership, management, and disposition of real property.**
~~Whether or not the local assembly is in possession of a copy, of the Declaration of Trust~~
shall remain fully binding upon all property so held issued with reference to the specific property held in trust by The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada for the local assembly.

14.4.4 ~~14.14~~ **Where the title to property the local assembly is held in trust by The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada on behalf of the a local assembly, and the that local assembly, through at a duly convened congregational business meeting, requests the return of title to the local assembly, such request shall be considered by the General Secretary Treasurer in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration of Trust and the applicable policies of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.**

14.4.5 Any proposal to acquire or dispose of real property as described in Section 14.4.1 shall require the approval of not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the eligible votes cast by members present at a duly called congregational business meeting.

Such action shall be undertaken only in consultation with the District Executive and in full compliance with the Declaration of Trust (where applicable), and with the property regulations and policies in force from time to time in the General Constitution and By-Laws and the Local Church Constitution and By-Laws of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, together with all applicable provincial laws, to ensure proper stewardship, legal conformity, and the preservation of the Fellowship's mission and integrity.

14.5 CLOSURE, DISSOLUTION, OR WINDING UP OF A LOCAL ASSEMBLY

14.5.1 Any decision by a self-governing local assembly to close, dissolve, or wind up shall not be undertaken unless and until such action has first been submitted to, and received prior written approval of, the district executive acting on behalf of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. The district executive shall exercise oversight to ensure that all ethical, legal, and fiduciary due diligence is completed, and that the proposed action is consistent with the mission, purposes, and obligations set forth in the General Constitution and By-Laws and the Local Church Constitution and By-Laws of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

14.5.2 Following the approval of the district executive, the decision to formally cease operations as a congregation shall require the approval of not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the eligible votes cast by members present at a duly called congregational business meeting.

14.5.3 This vote shall be recorded in the official minutes of the assembly, and all subsequent steps shall be taken in consultation with the district executive to ensure an orderly transition or closure.

14.5.4 Upon the dissolution or winding up of a local assembly, and following the satisfaction of all debts, liabilities, and lawful obligations, all remaining assets – whether real, personal, or mixed – shall be transferred and distributed exclusively to The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and no part of the assets shall be distributed to, or otherwise transferred or distributed to the benefit of, any individual member or private person.

~~**14.6** — The decision to formally cease operations as a congregation shall require a simple majority vote of the ballots cast at a duly called meeting.~~

~~**14.2** — In the event of dissolution or winding up of the local assembly, where the title is held in the name of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada all its remaining assets shall be distributed to The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada for its continuing ministries, as provided in the *Declaration of Trust*. Otherwise, upon dissolution the remaining assets shall be distributed to The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.~~

~~**14.8** — Recognizing the important services rendered to this congregation by the International Office and district offices of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, each local church shall support the ministry and fellowship services costs of the international and district offices.~~

~~Each local assembly shall forward an amount equal to 10 percent of its general fund offerings (does not include global worker offerings, building fund, or any other special fund) to the district office at regular intervals to assist with ministry and fellowship services costs.~~

~~**14.3** — A self-supporting assembly shall be understood to mean:~~

~~**14.3.1** — One that has been "set in order" as generally understood by the term.~~

~~**14.3.2** — One that meets all financial obligations in providing a place of worship and its operation, and providing an adequate compensation package for its pastor, together with suitable parsonage facilities. Suitable parsonage facilities shall be understood to mean an adequate dwelling in good repair together with utilities such as: heat, water, electricity and telephone, or financial provision for such services, and a vehicle allowance.~~

~~**14.3.3** — It shall be in a financial position to assume responsibility in contributing to the support of the district or branch conference with which it is affiliated, and to The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada global missions, Bible colleges and to other responsibilities as may be determined by the General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.~~

~~**14.3.4** — It shall be of sufficient maturity to have properly qualified leadership available for election and be able to maintain standards of discipline and doctrine over its members.~~

- ~~14.10~~ It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Bible and its rules and regulations.
- ~~14.11~~ Allegations leading to charges in matters involving a credentialed pastor's right to hold credentials with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada as defined in By-Law 10.6.2 must be made to the district executive in writing, and properly signed by one who is willing to appear 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.
- ~~14.12~~ All real estate owned by the local church shall be held in trust by The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada for the local church, or by the trustees of the local church as a local assembly of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, or, in the case of an incorporated church, the property may be held by the church in its corporate name as a local assembly of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.
- 14.13 THE DECLARATION OF TRUST**
Property held in the name of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada shall be governed by the terms of the *Declaration of Trust* of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, whether or not the local assembly is in possession of a copy of the *Declaration of Trust* issued with reference to the specific property held in trust by The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada for the local assembly.
- ~~14.14~~ Where the title to the local assembly is held in trust by The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada on behalf of the local assembly, and the local assembly at a duly convened congregational business meeting requests the return of title to the local assembly, such request shall be considered by the General Secretary Treasurer in accordance with the provisions of the *Declaration of Trust*.
- ~~14.15~~ Where property is placed in trust with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada at least a 75 per cent majority of eligible votes cast by members present at a duly called congregational business meeting shall be required to dispose of such property.
- ~~14.16~~ Except as required in By-Law 14.14 the acquisition and disposal of real property shall be decided by at least a two-thirds majority of the eligible votes cast by members present at a duly called congregational business meeting.
- ~~14.17~~ In the matter of disposing of any real property of the local church, the congregation shall be subject to the property regulations in force from time to time in the by-laws of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and the district constitution and by-laws, the applicable provincial laws, and the *Declaration of Trust*, where applicable.
- ~~14.18~~ Affiliated assemblies are expected to include the word "Pentecostal" in their official name, or shall include the unabbreviated phrase "Affiliated with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada" in their signage, official documents and communications.
- ~~14.19~~ All assemblies opened by workers holding ministerial credentials with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and opened with the approval of the district executive shall be known and recognized as local assemblies of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.
- ~~14.20~~ Each local assembly shall recognize that the district executive has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove of unscriptural doctrine or conduct. The said district executive may, by resolution, cancel and dismiss forthwith the affiliation of local assemblies with the corporation in the event of the failure of such local assemblies to comply with the constitution, rules and regulations of the corporation and resolutions of the district conference duly passed from time to time, or in the event of such local assemblies failing to subscribe to *The Statement of Essential Truths and Positions and Practices* approved by the General Conference from time to time.
- ~~14.21~~ When in need of counsel or advice, such affiliated local assembly may appeal to the district executive.
- ~~14.24~~ Any lay delegate appointed by a local assembly affiliated with the corporation who is sent as a delegate to the district or General Conference shall be recognized as representing, for the time being, the said local assembly, and shall be entitled to vote at all meetings of the district and General Conferences. The number of such lay delegates shall be determined from time to time

by resolution of the district or general conferences.

~~14.25~~ The procedure for affiliation of independent assemblies with the corporation shall be as follows:

~~14.25.1~~ The local congregation shall, at a regularly convened meeting, pass a resolution adopting *The Statement of Essential Truths and Positions and Practices* approved by the General Conference and the *Local Church Constitution of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada* or a local church constitution approved by the district executive.

~~14.25.2~~ The said congregation shall, at a regularly convened meeting, pass a resolution authorizing the officers of the local assembly to petition to the corporation for affiliation.

~~14.25.3~~ The General Executive of the corporation, on the recommendation of the district executive, may grant the petition for affiliation and shall forthwith thereafter notify the local congregation of its decision.

~~14.26~~ Where the matter of disaffiliation is to be included on the agenda of a congregational business meeting, a notice of such agenda item shall be delivered to the District Superintendent at least 14 days prior to such duly convened congregational meeting, such notice ensuring that the District Superintendent is provided with the opportunity to attend and present at the meeting the position of the district prior to any call for a vote on the issue of disaffiliation. A two-thirds majority of ballots cast shall be required in order for disaffiliation to proceed.

A motion was received from the floor to refer Resolution #11 back to committee.

It was MOVED and SECONDED to refer Resolution #11 back to committee.

CARRIED

GC 26-34

RESOLUTION #1 GCB Article 6 Positions and Practices

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the following amendment be approved:

WHEREAS the General Executive is recommending a revision to ARTICLE 6 POSITIONS AND PRACTICES in the definition of the breaking of the marriage relationship after further research, review and presentation of the Divorce & Remarriage (DNR) Policy Review Committee Report and Recommendations to the General Executive Committee;

BE IT RESOLVED that Article 6 of the General Constitution and By-Laws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE 6 POSITIONS AND PRACTICES

6.1 MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Marriage is a provision of God wherein one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others enter into a lifelong relationship¹ through a marriage ceremony that is recognized by the church and legally sanctioned by the state.

Marriage establishes a "one-flesh" covenantal relationship² that goes beyond a physical union and is more than either a temporary relationship of convenience intended to provide personal pleasure or a contract that binds two people together in a legal partnership. Marriage establishes an emotional and spiritual oneness that enables both partners to respond to the spiritual, physical and social needs of the other.³ It provides the biblical context for the procreation of children.

Marriage is to be an exclusive relationship that is maintained in purity.⁴ It is intended by God to be a permanent relationship. It is a witness to the world of the relationship between Christ and His church.⁵

Marriage requires a commitment of love, perseverance and faith. Because of its sanctity and permanence, marriage should be treated with seriousness and entered into only after counsel and prayer for God's guidance. Christians should marry only those who are believers.⁶ An individual who becomes a believer after marriage should remain with his/her partner in peace, and should give witness to the Gospel in the home.⁷

The Bible holds family life as a position of trust and responsibility. The home is a stabilizing force in society,

1 Gen 2:24; Matt 19:6

2 Matt 19:5; Mal 2:15

3 Gen 2:18; 1Cor 7:2-5; Heb 13:4

4 Eph 5:3, 26-27

5 Eph 5:25, 31-32

6 2Cor 6:1, 14-15

7 1Cor 7:12-14, 16

a place of nurture, counsel, and safety for children,⁸ therefore, abuse has no place in a marriage or in the home.

~~Marriage can only be broken by *porneia*, which is understood as marital unfaithfulness⁹ involving adultery, homosexuality, or incest. While the Scriptures give evidence that the marriage vow and "one flesh" union are broken by such acts and therefore recognize the breaking of the marriage relationship, the Scriptures do recommend that the most desirable option would be reconciliation.¹⁰~~

6.2 DIVORCE

We believe that divorce is not God's intention. It is God's but a concession "because your hearts were hard," to the "hardness of men's hearts."¹¹

We, therefore, discourage divorce ~~by all lawful means and teaching.~~ Our objective is reconciliation and the healing of the marital union wherever possible. ~~Marital unfaithfulness should not be considered so much an occasion or opportunity for divorce but rather an opportunity for Christian grace, forgiveness, and restoration.~~ Divorce in our society is a termination of a marriage through a legal process authorized by the State. While the Church recognizes this legal process as an appropriate means to facilitate the permanent separation of spouses, ~~the Church we~~ restricts the idea of divorce, in the sense of dissolution of marriage, to reasons specified supported in Scripture: marital unfaithfulness¹², pre-conversion divorce¹³, the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever¹⁴, or domestic abuse by a spouse, toward a spouse or child¹⁵.

~~The weight of the biblical record~~ includes evidence that God hates the violence associated with divorce; ~~is negative and the explicit statement is made, "God hates divorce "The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "does violence to the one he should protect," says the LORD Almighty.~~¹⁶ Divorce is more than an action of the courts which breaks the legal contract between partners in a marriage. It is also the fracture of a unique human relationship between a male and a female. Divorce has profound consequences for the children. ~~Divorce is evidence of the sinful nature expressed in human failure. Jesus gives one explicit cause for the dissolution of marriage: *porneia* or marital unfaithfulness.~~

Where all attempts at reconciliation have failed and a divorce has been finalized, we extend Christ's love and compassion.

6.3 REMARRIAGE

Remarriage is the union of one man and one woman, legally sanctioned by the State, ~~of one man and one woman~~, one or both of whom have been previously married. ~~It is regarded as acceptable in Scripture in the event of the death of a former spouse. It is also regarded as acceptable if there has been sexual immorality on the part of the former partner or if the former partner has remarried.~~

CARRIED

GC 26-35

RESOLUTION #2 GCB By-Law 10.2.1 Divorce and Remarriage

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the following amendment be approved:

WHEREAS this Conference has approved a revision to ARTICLE 6 POSITIONS AND PRACTICES in the definition of the breaking of the marriage relationship;

WHEREAS the General Executive is recommending revisions to the credential standards related to remarriage following divorce, specifically related to: Marital unfaithfulness, pre-conversion divorce, abandonment of the believer by the unbelieving spouse and domestic abuse by a spouse, toward a spouse or child;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT General Constitution and By-Law, By-Law 10.2.1 be amended as follows:

10.2.1 QUALIFICATIONS FOR DIVORCED AND REMARRIAGE REMARRIED NEW APPLICANT

⁸ Eph 6:4

⁹ Matt 5:32; 19:9

¹⁰ Eph 4:32

¹¹ Matt 19:8

¹² Matt 19:9

¹³ 2 Cor 5:17

¹⁴ 1 Cor 7:10-15

¹⁵ Matt 18:6; Eph 5:28-33; Col 3:19

¹⁶ Mal 2:16

Credential holders or new credential applicants shall not be remarried if either the credential holder or spouse has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred due to the former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or pre-conversion divorce (2 Corinthians 5:17), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15), or domestic abuse by a spouse, toward a spouse or child (Matthew 18:6; Ephesians 5:28-33; Colossians 3:19).

~~10.2.1~~ An Credential holders or new credential applicants who ~~have~~ never been married or who are is widowed and who wishes to marry a divorced person whose former spouse is still living, or ~~an applicant~~ who has been divorced and remarried with a former spouse still living, or ~~an applicant~~ who is currently married to a spouse who has a former spouse still living, may qualify to retain or receive ~~for~~ credentials when the following conditions exist:

10.2.1.1. A district credential committee has recognized the cause of divorce as meeting the biblical criterion in at least one of the following conditions:

10.2.1.1.1 Marital unfaithfulness.

10.2.1.1.2 Pre-conversion divorce.

10.2.1.1.3 Abandonment of the believer by the unbelieving spouse.

10.2.1.1.4 Domestic abuse by a spouse, to a spouse or child.

10.2.1.2 The credential holder or new credential applicant did not, subsequent to conversion, contribute to the divorce by marital unfaithfulness, abandonment of their former spouse, or domestic abuse toward their former spouse or child(ren).

~~10.2.1.1~~ The former spouse, of either the credential applicant or of the applicant's current spouse, has committed *porneia* as defined in the *General Constitution and By-Laws* Article 6.1 and determined by one or more of the following means:

~~10.2.1.1.1~~ A district hearing committee has found the former credentialed spouse guilty in the process of dealing with charges related to *porneia*.

~~10.2.1.1.2~~ A secular court has found the former spouse guilty of a legal offence related to sexual misconduct which may be interpreted by a credential committee of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada as *porneia*.

~~10.2.1.1.3~~ A certificate of marriage, or other legal marital status documents, provides evidence that the former spouse has remarried subsequent to the divorce from the credential applicant or the applicant's current spouse.

~~10.2.1.1.4~~ Evidence demonstrates that the former spouse has been a partner in a common law marriage, as defined by provincial or federal legislation, subsequent to the divorce from the credential applicant or the applicant's current spouse.

~~10.2.1.1.5~~ If the previous means of evidence are not available, consideration may be given to an affidavit witnessed by two signatories, or a notary public or commissioner of oaths, affirming that the applicant's former spouse has committed *porneia*.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the following section be deleted:

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CREDENTIAL HOLDERS REGARDING DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

~~10.2.2~~ A credential holder who is divorced with a former spouse still living and who wishes to retain credentials may be declared eligible to remarry when the following conditions exist:

~~10.2.2.1~~ The credential holder did not contribute to a divorce by having committed *porneia*.

~~10.2.2.2~~ The former spouse has committed *porneia* as defined in The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada *General Constitution and By-Laws* Article 6.1 and determined by one (1) or more of the following means:

~~10.2.2.2.1~~ A district hearing committee of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada has found the former credentialed spouse guilty in the process of dealing with charges related to *porneia*.

- ~~10.2.2.2.2~~ A secular court has found the former spouse guilty of a legal offence related to sexual misconduct which may be interpreted by a credential committee of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada as *porneia*.
- ~~10.2.2.2.3~~ A certificate of marriage, or other legal marital status documents, provides evidence that the former spouse has remarried subsequent to the divorce from the credential holder.
- ~~10.2.2.2.4~~ Evidence demonstrates that the former spouse has been a partner in a common law marriage, as defined by provincial or federal legislation, subsequent to the divorce from the credential holder.
- ~~10.2.2.2.5~~ If the previous means of evidence are not available, consideration may be given to an affidavit witnessed by two signatories, or a notary public or commissioner of oaths, affirming that the applicant's former spouse has committed *porneia*.
- ~~10.2.2.3~~ The credential holder has provided acceptable evidence in an application form, personal interview, and through the testimony of references to the National Credentials Review Committee that he/she has clearly demonstrated exemplary Christian character and morality for the prior four (4) year period.
- ~~10.2.2.4~~ A minimum period of four years has elapsed since the former spouse committed *porneia* as determined by one or more of the means listed above in By-Law 10.2.2.2, provided that the time between the divorce and remarriage is not less than one year.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.2.3 be amended as follows:

- ~~10.2.1.4.3~~ Should a credential holder or new credential applicant who has never been married or a ~~credential holder who is widowed, or a credential holder who is divorced and eligible to remarry,~~ wish to marry a divorced person whose former spouse is still living, the conditions in By-Law 10.2.1.2 shall apply to the divorced person(s).
- ~~10.2.1.5~~ Notwithstanding the above, a district credential committee ~~the National Credentials Review Committee~~ may present an divorce and remarriage application with relevant supporting information to the General Executive for consideration when, in the view of the district credential ~~c~~Committee, circumstances merit special consideration.

CARRIED

GC 26-36

RESOLUTION #3 GCB By-Law 10.2.1.2 Divorce and Remarriage – Time Requirement
It was MOVED and SECONDED that the following amendment be approved:

WHEREAS this Conference has approved a revision to ARTICLE 6 POSITIONS AND PRACTICES in the definition of the breaking of the marriage relationship;

AND WHEREAS the General Executive is recommending the shortening of the waiting period for remarriage following divorce;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of the waiting period is to provide time for healing for individuals who have experienced the pain of marital breakdown and divorce;

AND WHEREAS divorce proceedings may be complicated, delayed or contested for reasons beyond the applicant's control;

AND WHEREAS the applicant may have been separated and living independently for a significant period prior to the legal finalization of the divorce;

BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 10.2.1.2.2 and By-Law 10.2.1.2.1 of the General Constitution and By-Laws be amended as follows:

~~10.2.1.2~~ A minimum period of five years has elapsed since the later date of the following events:

- ~~10.2.1.2.2~~ A minimum period of three years has elapsed since the ~~The date the~~ divorce of a current credential holder took place or the date of verified separation due to one or more of the following causes (1) marital unfaithfulness, (2) pre-conversion divorce, (3) abandonment of the believer by the unbelieving spouse, or (4)

domestic abuse by a spouse, to a spouse or child; former spouse committed *porneia* as determined by one (1) or more of the means listed above in By-Law 10.2.1.1. **where the credential holder has provided acceptable evidence in an application form, personal interview, and through the testimony of references to a district credential committee that they have clearly demonstrated exemplary Christian character and morality following the divorce. A personal interview may be conducted at the discretion of the district credential committee.**

~~10.2.1.32.1~~ A minimum period of three years has elapsed since the The date the current remarriage of a new applicant took place. where the individual has provided acceptable evidence in an application form, personal interview, and through the testimony of references to a district credential committee that they are currently a partner in a remarriage relationship. A personal interview may be conducted at the discretion of the district credential committee.

~~10.2.1.2.2~~ The date the former spouse committed *porneia* as determined by one (1) or more of the means listed above in By-Law 10.2.1.1.

~~10.2.1.3~~ The individual has provided acceptable evidence in an application form, personal interview, and through the testimony of references to the National Credentials Review Committee that he/she is currently a partner in a marriage relationship where faithfulness has been clearly demonstrated for a minimum period of five (5) years.

CARRIED

GC 26-37

RESOLUTION #4 GCB By-Law 8.1.2 National Credentials Review Committee
It was MOVED and SECONDED that the following amendment be approved:

WHEREAS this Conference has approved a revision to ARTICLE 6 POSITIONS AND PRACTICES in definition of the breaking of the marriage relationship;

AND WHEREAS the General Executive is recommending that the divorce and remarriage application process be adjudicated by districts in consultation with the International Office;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 8.1.2 of the General Constitution and By-Laws be amended by deletion:

~~8.1.2~~ — NATIONAL CREDENTIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE

~~8.1.2.1~~ — PURPOSE

~~8.1.2.1.1~~ This committee will be limited to serve a district credential committee only in regard to divorce and remarriage.

~~8.1.2.1.2~~ This committee shall receive an application from new applicants after a preliminary assessment of credential suitability has been given by a district.

~~8.1.2.1.3~~ This committee shall receive credential applications from applicants who are divorced and remarried with a former spouse still living and who wish to transfer ministerial credentials held with another religious organization into The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

~~8.1.2.1.4~~ This committee shall receive applications from credential holders of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada who wish to marry a divorced person with a former spouse still living or who are divorced with a former spouse still living and who wish to retain credentials and be declared eligible to remarry.

~~8.1.2.1.5~~ This committee may conduct personal interview(s) with each applicant, except in situations where the written application reveals that the individual is clearly ineligible or in unique circumstances where the committee determines that an interview is not possible or is unwarranted.

~~8.1.2.1.6~~ When applicants have met the criteria, this committee shall make recommendations to the General Executive to authorize the applicant to be eligible to submit a credential application. If the applicant is a current credential holder, divorced, and seeking

~~permission to remarry, the National Credentials Review Committee shall make appropriate recommendations to the General Executive for ratification.~~

~~8.1.2.2 ORGANIZATION~~

~~8.1.2.2.1 The National Credentials Review Committee shall consist of the General Secretary Treasurer and other situationally appropriate credential holders as determined by the Chair.~~

~~8.1.2.2.2 The General Secretary Treasurer shall be the Chair.~~

~~8.1.2.2.3 This committee shall be responsible to the General Executive.~~

~~8.1.2.2.4 This committee shall meet at the call of the Chair.~~

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the remaining section be renumbered for the deletion.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.3.2 and By-Law 10.3.3 be amended as follows:

10.3 ISSUING OF CREDENTIALS

10.3.1 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 the Mission Global Operations Committee, subject to the appropriate approval of the district conference.

10.3.2 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 credential committee for appropriate approval of the district conference.

10.3.3 Initial applications for credentials by individuals who have been divorced and remarried, or by credential holders of other organizations who have been divorced and remarried and wish to transfer their credentials, shall ~~complete~~ **submit** the ~~special~~ **appropriate** application form to ~~be submitted to the National Credentials Review Committee~~ **the district credential committee**.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 10.4.2.4 be amended as follows:

10.4.2 TRANSFERS INTO A DISTRICT OF THE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA

10.4.2.4 Ministers from other church organizations who have been divorced and remarried and who wish to transfer to The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada shall **submit** ~~complete~~ the ~~special~~ **appropriate** application form to ~~be submitted to the National Credentials Review Committee~~ **the district credential committee**. Approved applicants for transfer shall be referred to the district executive for further processing.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT any other references to the National Credentials Review Committee be replaced by the district credential committee.

CARRIED

GC 26-38 **RESOLUTION #5** LCC 10.2.4 and By-Law 10.2.5 Ministers Performing Wedding Ceremonies
It was MOVED and SECONDED that the following amendment be approved:

WHEREAS this Conference has approved a revision to ARTICLE 6 POSITIONS AND PRACTICES in the definition of the breaking of the marriage relationship;

AND WHEREAS the General Executive is recommending revision to the standards related to remarriage following divorce, for ministers performing wedding ceremonies, specifically related to: Marital unfaithfulness, pre-conversion divorce, abandonment of the believer by the unbelieving spouse and domestic abuse by a spouse, toward a spouse or child;

BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 10.2.4 and 10.2.5 of the General Constitution and By-Laws be moved

to 10.9 Ceremonies and Ordinances as follows:

10.9 CEREMONIES AND ORDINANCES

Ministers holding credentials with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada are permitted to conduct the various ceremonies and ordinances in accordance with the customs and practices and the provisions of the General Constitution & By-Laws of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and the laws of their province or territory.

10.9.1 Ordained ministers are permitted to solemnize marriages if they are registered with the government.

EXCEPTIONS: Those who hold Ministerial License for Women Credential, Licensed Minister Credential, or Recognition of Ministry Credential may, under special circumstances, be granted the right to solemnize marriage according to the Provincial Marriage Act. Such people:

10.9.1.1 must obtain authorization from the district executive,

10.9.1.2 must be in charge of a congregation, and

10.9.1.3 must be registered with the appropriate provincial or territorial government.

10.2.4 **10.9.2** Ministers may decline to officiate at a wedding ceremony which is not in harmony with their personal beliefs and convictions.

10.2.5 **10.9.3** No minister may perform any wedding ceremony in which either party has been divorced and the former spouse is still living, except in instances in which, after proper investigation, the minister has determined and is satisfied that the following conditions exist, or where the minister has received an affidavit from the person who has a living former spouse, duly witnessed by two signatories, or a notary public or commissioner of oaths, that declares the conditions listed below have been fulfilled:

~~**10.2.5.1**~~ **10.9.3.1** all reasonable efforts at reconciliation with the former partner have been exhausted; and

~~**10.2.5.3**~~ **10.9.3.2** there is repentance for any personal failures that may have contributed to the breakup of the previous marriage; and

~~**10.2.5.4**~~ **10.9.3.3** a legal divorce has been obtained; and

~~**10.2.5.2**~~ **10.9.3.4** the applicant(s) did not, subsequent to conversion, contribute to the divorce by marital unfaithfulness, abandonment of their former spouse, or domestic abuse toward their former spouse or child(ren), and that the cause of the divorce was due to one or more of the following conditions:

10.9.3.4.1 Marital unfaithfulness.

10.9.3.4.2 Pre-conversion divorce.

10.9.3.4.3 Abandonment of the believer by the unbelieving spouse.

10.9.3.4.4 Domestic abuse by a spouse, to a spouse or child.

~~**10.2.5.2**~~ — there has been sexual immorality on the part of a former partner or a former partner has remarried; and

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the remaining section be renumbered for the inclusion.

CARRIED

GC 26-39 **RESOLUTION #6** GCB By-Law 10.2 Rightful Use of Authority and Power
[This matter was referred back from the General Conference 2024].

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the following amendment be approved:

WHEREAS the General Executive commissioned a review of the General Constitution and By-Laws in 2023, by an independent third-party consultant to review The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada's governing documents;

AND WHEREAS there is a need to heighten awareness of the importance of the rightful use of authority and power for credential holders;

AND WHEREAS credential holders are expected to maintain biblical standards and to serve others in alignment with biblical values, including authority and power;

BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 10.2 of the General Constitution and By-Laws be amended as follows:

10.2 QUALIFICATIONS TO RECEIVE AND RETAIN CREDENTIALS

The General Executive shall appoint a Credential Standards Committee (By-Law 8.1.3) to set the standards for credentials in The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, including but not limited to academic standards.

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

Credential holders shall be expected to maintain biblical standards of holiness, guarding their lives against conformity to the world in appearance, in selfish ambition, in carnal attitudes and evil associations, and always, as ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall seek to conform to the positive virtues of love, mercy, and forgiveness as taught by the Lord.

Credential holders shall be expected to serve others, rightfully using, and not abusing authority and power in alignment with biblical values, and as outlined in the General Constitution and By-Laws, and for the purposes of furthering the mission of God (1 Peter 4:10; Ezekiel 34; Jeremiah 23).

Credential holders shall be expected to refrain from "acts of the sinful nature: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like" (Galatians 5:19-21 NIV). Sexual immorality shall be interpreted to mean common-law marital relationships, premarital and extramarital sexual relationships (1 Corinthians 6:15-18; 7:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4), and all forms of homosexual activity, along with other practices deemed inexcusable for Christian conduct, and which place a person under God's judgment (Romans 1:26-2:11).

CARRIED

GC 26-40 **RESOLUTION #7** GCB By-Law 10.6.2.2.1.6 Abuse or Misuse of Power and Authority
It was MOVED and SECONDED that the following amendment be approved:

WHEREAS By-Law 10.6.2 of the General Constitution and By-Laws addresses Causes for Disciplinary Action of a credential holder;

AND WHEREAS, By-Law 10.6.2 mentions abuse of power or authority, yet lacks a definition of such;

AND WHEREAS, defined clarity is key to a proper investigation;

BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 10.6.2 of the General Constitution and By-Laws be amended by the addition of a definition, as follows:

10.6.2.2.1.6 ABUSE OR MISUSE OF POWER AND AUTHORITY

Credential holders are expected to lead through servant leadership, marked by humility, fairness, and accountability. An abuse or misuse of power or authority may include, but is not limited to, coerciveness, manipulation, retaliation against a whistleblower, or intimidation. Signed allegations involving credentials shall be referred to the district executive or Mission Global Operations Committee for investigation under By-Law 10.6.

AND FURTHER, WHEREAS the term abuse of power or authority is deemed a violation of the principles of servant leadership found in By-Law 10.6.2.2.1 rather than the violation of biblical mandates quoted in By-Law 10.6.2.1.1;

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 10.6.2.1.1.3 be amended 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).

CARRIED

D. Wells expressed appreciation to the committee and the groups that worked so diligently on matters related to divorce and remarriage.

The Chair declared the ballot open to receive the reports of the Executive Officers. The ballots were cast. The ballot was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GC 26-41 **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' REPORTS:** It was MOVED and SECONDED to receive the reports of the General Superintendent, General Secretary Treasurer, and Executive Director for Mission Global.
CARRIED

The Chair declared the ballot open for the next four business items: Ratification of District Superintendents, Ratification of Regional Directors, Appointment of Auditor, and Courtesy Resolution. The ballots were cast. The ballot was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GC 26-42 **RATIFICATION OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS:** As per By-Law 10.2 of the General Constitution & By-Laws, it was MOVED and SECONDED to ratify the appointment of the District Superintendents to the General Executive.
CARRIED

GC 26-43 **RATIFICATION OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS:** As per By-Law 10.2 of the General Constitution & By-Laws, it was MOVED and SECONDED to ratify the appointment of the Regional Directors to the General Executive, noting that S. Hertzog, Eurasia has resigned his position effective August 31, 2026, and J. Feller, Africa, will transition to his new position of Executive Director for Mission Global effective September 1, 2026.
CARRIED

GC 26-44 **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR – 2026 FISCAL YEAR:** C. Burton presented the General Executive's recommendation for the Auditor for the 2026 fiscal year.

It was MOVED and SECONDED to appoint *Robertson, Lott and Brohman (RLB) Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors* as The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada's Auditors for the 2026 fiscal year.
CARRIED

GC 24-45 **COURTESY RESOLUTION:**

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the 2026 General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada express gratitude and appreciation to the following:

1. The Maritime District Superintendent Rev. Kevin Johnson, Production Lead Rev. Jim Molloy, District Officers, District Executive, staff, conference volunteers, and the pastors and congregations of the Maritime District with the many varied details of hosting the conference in the City of Halifax, NS and for providing a memorable welcome event.
2. Our General Superintendent, Rev. David Wells, for his excellent leadership, our General Secretary Treasurer, Rev. Craig Burton and our Executive Director for Mission Global, Rev. Murray Cornelius, for their faithful service and ministry to the Fellowship.
3. The General Executive and various committees and working groups of the PAOC.
4. Natalie Rogge (Assistant to the General Superintendent for Events & Strategic Initiatives), Stacey McKenzie (Communications), Colleen Stuckless (Conference Office Manager, Exhibitor & Sponsorship Coordinator), Ruth Stagg (Recording Secretary), Sharon Thomson (Registration),

Rob Narain (IT), Priscilla Cochrane (Hospitality), and other staff personnel of the International Office who have served in official functions to efficiently facilitate this General Conference.

5. All the conference committees for their contribution in assisting with the work of the conference.
6. Thanks to Kristin Pollard and the worship team members from churches within the Maritime District.
7. To our online conference hosts, Paul and Corrie Fraser and Jeshuran Beadle and our stage manager Joanna Savoie and our French translators.
8. The Children's Ministries team, who cared for and taught our children well.
9. Our plenary speakers, and those who presented within the breakout sessions.
10. We would like to thank The Canadian Bible Society, Deeks Insurance, Robertson Hall Insurance, First Century Foundations, Shalem Mental Health Network, Look Up with Will Graham, Canadian Disaster Relief – Samaritan's Purse, Our Daily Bread Ministries Canada, Focus on the Family Canada, Ekkuip Distribution, Allies for a Strong Canada, Watoto Canada, Global University, Anyone Pray powered by Crossroads, Aboriginal Bible Academy, Redeemer University, Tyndale University, Canadian Christian Education Movement, Passion 4 Presence, Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto, International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Bible Engagement Project, International Justice Mission Canada, Micro-City Movements, MultiTracks, FiServ Canada, Inspire.FM, and RLB Chartered Professional Accountants for their sponsorship of our 57th General Conference.
11. Halifax area hotels, Halifax tourism and Halifax Convention Centre.
12. And to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, whom we love, worship, trust and serve.

CARRIED

GC 26-46 **MOTION OF ADJOURNMENT:** It was MOVED and SECONDED to adjourn the 57th General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. CARRIED

The General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada adjourned at 6:08 PM AT.

The Chair declared the meeting closed.



David Wells
General Superintendent



Craig Burton
General Secretary Treasurer