



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF
THE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA
57th GENERAL CONFERENCE SPECIAL BUSINESS SESSION**

**April 15, 2026
1:00 PM ET Via Livestream
MINUTES**

The Chair, Rev. D. Wells, welcomed participants to the special meeting of the 57th Biennial General Conference. The livestream business session was called to order at 1:00 PM ET.

The Chair noted that this meeting 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, B. Mgonja (c), J. Shepherd, T. Poirier, and J. Reid (online parliamentarian).

Rev. C. Burton was invited to provide the voting instructions throughout the business session. The Chair read each of the procedural items on the first procedural poll. The Chair declared the poll open for the first two procedural items: Establishment of Voting Bar and Recognition of Conference Committees. The poll for the two procedural items was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GCSM 26-01 **VOTING BAR:** It was MOVED and SECONDED that the voting bar be designated by those who are voting members of the General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and have received the first procedural poll on the Whova App. CARRIED

GCSM 26-02 **CONFERENCE COMMITTEES:** It was MOVED and SECONDED that the conference committees as appointed by the Executive Officers Committee be approved as shown on the screen. CARRIED

The Chair noted that Quorum, as established by the *General Constitution and By-Laws* (in By-Law 2.1) "shall consist of two percent of eligible voting members of the corporation registered at any meeting of the General Conference". It was confirmed that a Quorum for the meeting was reached.

The Chair extended a welcome to all credential holders, lay delegates, and guests joining online for this special meeting of the 2026 General Conference. Appreciation was expressed to our former General Officers, whom we deeply honour.

Rev. M. Cornelius, Executive Director for Mission Global, was invited to bring an opening devotional, and to lead in prayer.

The Chair declared the poll open for the next two procedural items: Approval of Agenda and Acceptance of the Roster Report. The poll for the two procedural items was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GCSM 26-03 **AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL MEETING:** It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Agenda be approved as presented to the conference. CARRIED

GCSM 26-04 **ROSTER REPORT:** The Chair of the Roster Committee, S. Thomson, presented the Roster Report.

VOTING	590
Credentialed Voting Members	
GRAND TOTAL	590

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

CARRIED

C. Burton provided the omnibus voting instructions for the eleven Resolutions: 1-6, pertaining to matters contained within the Local Church Constitution; 4-10, pertaining to matters contained within the General Constitution and By-Laws; 11, pertaining to a matter contained within the Local Church Constitution and the General Constitution and By-Laws.

Rev. T. Couch, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolutions 1-6. The Chair declared the ballot open for Resolutions 1-6. The ballots were cast. The ballot for Resolutions 1-6 was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GCSM 26-05 **RESOLUTION #1 Transfer of Church Membership**

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

WHEREAS the membership committee of a local church is responsible for the receiving and approval of applications for membership, and,

WHEREAS consideration may be given to an applicant that has previously held membership with another Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada church, and,

WHEREAS the membership committee may wish to request a reference from the former church;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Local Church Constitution and By-Laws, By-Law 1 MEMBERSHIP be amended as follows:

BY-LAW 1 MEMBERSHIP

1.1 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: A membership committee composed of the pastor and the [leadership] shall receive applications for membership, shall make investigation relating thereto as it deems proper, and shall approve for admission into the local church those applicants who meet membership requirements.

1.2 PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

1.2.1 Application for membership shall be received on a signed application form whereby the applicant agrees to abide by the provisions of the *Local Church Constitution and By-Laws* including the terms of membership as stated in Article 6.1. **The membership committee may request a reference from the applicant's former church at its discretion.**

1.2.2 Applicants who have been approved by the membership committee for membership in this local church shall be publicly received into the local church (Galatians 2:9) and may receive notification confirming membership. Membership may be reviewed annually by the membership committee.

1.3 ~~TRANSFER:~~ ~~Members who move from another local church and desire to have their membership transferred should request a certificate or letter of transfer from the membership committee of the former local church for presentation to the membership committee of this local church. Members who move to another local church shall be given, upon written request, a certificate or letter of transfer by the membership committee of this local church.~~

CARRIED

GCSM 26-06 **RESOLUTION #2 Charges Involving the Criminal Code of Canada**

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

WHEREAS the wording in the General Constitution and By-Laws, By-Law 10.6.7 was updated in 2024;

AND WHEREAS alignment in the wording of the Local Church Constitution and By-Laws is required;

BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 2.1.8 of the Local Church Constitution and By-Laws be updated as follows:

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 credential holder being charged under the *Criminal Code* or other federal statutes of Canada or the criminal laws of another nation, the credential holder shall continue to receive remuneration for a maximum of three (3) months.

CARRIED

GCSM 26-07 **RESOLUTION #3 Impacting the Community**

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

WHEREAS the use of the word “touching” does not appropriately convey the intention of impacting the community with the gospel;

BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 2.3.3.2 and By-Law 2.3.3.3 of the Local Church Constitution and By-Laws be amended as follows:

2.3.3.2 TO OTHER MEMBERS OF [LEADERSHIP]: Support the [leadership] in their primary responsibility to their family; encourage and enable the [leadership] to a continual growth in leadership through prescribed courses made available through The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada; assume responsibility for areas of expertise and giftedness to assure administrative excellence in the church; fulfill assigned duties as directed by the [leadership]; assist in creating and implementing a vision and strategy for the church; assist in the development of the church as a disciple-making, equipping community; ensure that adequate resources are available for impacting ~~touching~~, reaching and discipling the community; ensure a global missions strategy and commitment; respect and understand mutual accountability (Rom. 1:8); and provide covering, care, and nurture for each member of the [leadership]. It is expected that the [leadership] will function in confidentiality and loyalty, and model personal discipleship, which will contribute to the well being, reputation, and respect of the entire [leadership].

2.3.3.3 TO THE CONGREGATION: Model healthy family life and teach family values; ensure that adequate resources are available for impacting ~~touching~~, reaching and discipling the community; ensure clear communication of the vision, strategy and needs to the congregation; ensure that an adequate membership process is in place (including education, ministry, accountability and discipline); assist the congregation in understanding their spiritual responsibility to serve, give, share and be involved; assist the congregation in understanding their responsibility to support the leadership in its vision and direction for the future and health of the church; and assist the congregation to understand its role in, and commitment to, the community, as an agency of grace and spiritual light.

CARRIED

GCSM 26-08 **RESOLUTION #4 Servants Council Tenure**

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

WHEREAS a Servants Council can be appointed by the church board or pastor’s council;

AND WHEREAS unlimited tenure for members on a Servants Council is inconsistent with other limits to terms of office in the Local Church Constitution and By-Laws;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2.4.1.1 of the Local Church Constitution and By-Laws be amended as followed:

2.4 SERVANTS COUNCIL (if desired)

2.4.1 DUTIES

The purpose of a Servants Council is to assist the pastor and [leadership] to effectively serve the local church in practical ways. The Servants Council will:

- 2.4.1.1 Be appointed by the members of [leadership], for a term determined by the [leadership] an unlimited tenure.

CARRIED

GCSM 26-09 **RESOLUTION #5 Electronic Submission of Board Candidate Names**

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

WHEREAS the electronic submission of the names of candidates for the board may further facilitate the process;

BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 3.1.2 of the Local Church Constitution and By-Laws be amended as follows:

**BY-LAW 3 SELECTION OF [LEADERSHIP] AND BUSINESS MEETINGS
OPTION ONE – ELECTED**

3.1 NOMINATIONS

- 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, by exception, a longer period as approved by resolution of the [leadership]. The submissions shall be in writing or provided electronically, signed by and/or identified as a the local church member, and submitted without the knowledge of the person.

CARRIED

GCSM 26-10 **RESOLUTION #6 Church [Leadership] Elections**

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

WHEREAS procedural clarity is needed in the voting process related to the plurality of votes when electing leadership as found in By-Law 3 SELECTION OF [LEADERSHIP] AND BUSINESS MEETINGS under OPTION ONE – ELECTED,

AND WHEREAS an election is required for all members new to a term on the Pastor's Council under OPTION TWO – PASTOR'S COUNCIL;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Local Church Constitution and By-Laws, By-Law 3.2 VOTING under OPTION ONE – ELECTED be amended as follows:

- 3.2 **VOTING ELECTION:** All candidates for one the [leadership] position of this local church, ~~except (excluding the pastor's position),~~ shall be declared elected upon receiving a majority - more than 50 percent - of all votes cast for that position. In the event there is more than one position being voted on in the first election ballot, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast above 50 percent shall be declared elected for a [leadership] position cast for the office at the annual congregational business meeting.

If the any available [leadership] position remains open after the first election ballot candidate is not elected on the first ballot, the name receiving the lowest number of votes cast shall be eliminated on each succeeding ballot and voting shall continue until an election is declared for each position. 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 Local Church Constitution and By-Laws, By-Law 3.1.2 under OPTION TWO – PASTOR'S COUNCIL be amended as follows:

~~3.1.2~~ **3.2 RATIFICATION VOTE:** All members beginning a term on 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 Local Church Constitution and By-Laws, By-Law 3.2 be amended as follows and applies to both OPTION ONE – ELECTED and OPTION TWO – PASTOR'S COUNCIL:

~~3.2~~ **3.3 VOTING:** When the church congregation is voting on business matters, a definite voting bar shall be made between those who are entitled to vote and those who are not so entitled. A member of the congregation wishing to challenge the right of another to vote may do so. In the event of such a challenge, a majority vote of the congregation shall decide.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the remaining section be renumbered.

CARRIED

T. Couch read Resolutions 7-10. The Chair declared the ballot open for Resolutions 7-10. The ballots were cast. The ballot for Resolutions 7-10 was declared closed according to the time clock on the livestream feed.

GCSM 26-11 **RESOLUTION #7 Investigation of Allegations**

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

WHEREAS By-Law 10.6.6 of the General Constitution and By-Laws requires a formal investigation when an alleged offence has been reported to have occurred;

AND WHEREAS, By-Law 10.6.6 stipulates that there be two investigators: a District Superintendent or Executive Director for Mission Global or their designate, and another appointed credential holder;

AND WHEREAS, by having only two investigators, there are times when the male/female ratio is a challenge during the investigation process;

AND WHEREAS, there are situations where language or cultural identities bring exceptional nuances that are deemed necessary in the investigation process;

AND WHEREAS, when putting together an investigation team, there may be difficulty in appointing an individual who is, or appears to be, sufficiently independent, objective and/or impartial within a district or Mission Global context;

BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 10.6.6 of the General Constitution and By-Laws be amended by addition, as follows:

10.6.6 INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS

Allegations with a description of the violation(s) must be made in writing and be properly signed by one who is willing to appear and give testimony at a district hearing.

Alleged violations under By-Law 10.6.2 shall be investigated. The District Superintendent or Executive Director for Mission Global, or their designate ~~appointee~~, and another credential holder appointed by the District Superintendent or Executive Director for Mission Global of the district or region in which the alleged offence is reported to have occurred, shall make an investigation, having in mind that it is their responsibility to safeguard the complainant, any witnesses, the minister, the church, and the Fellowship.

The District Superintendent or Executive Director for Mission Global, or their designate, may appoint additional credential holders to assist in investigations. They may also appoint credential holders from other districts to serve as investigators.

Furthermore, they may involve resource individuals, such as interpreters, cultural advisors, or technical specialists, to support the investigative process.

CARRIED

GCSM 26-12 **RESOLUTION #8 Credential Holders Employed as Staff of the International Office**

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

WHEREAS there is a need for clarification in General Constitution and By-Laws, By-Law 10.3.4 regarding credential holders employed as staff of the International office or under ministry appointment with Mission Global;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT General Constitution and By-Laws, By-Law 10.3.4 be amended as follows:

10.3.4 All ministers must hold their credentials with the district in which they reside, except if the pastor's residence is across a district boundary from the congregation they serve, in which case the location of the church is the determining factor. Credential holders employed as staff of working ~~at~~ the International Office may choose to hold credentials in any district. Members of Bible college administration or faculties may hold credentials in any of the sponsoring districts of the school. Such credential holders may remain eligible for district ministry appointments or elections in the district in which they hold credentials. Credential holders who are 60 years of age or older and have retired from active full-time ministry may hold their credentials in any district within the fellowship, regardless of residence. Credential holders on full-time study leave as provided in By-Law 10.5.7.3 may retain their credentials in their home district.

CARRIED

GCSM 26-13 **RESOLUTION #9 Terms of Office, Engagement and Vacancies**

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

WHEREAS the terms of office and engagement for district officers are best determined by the District Conferences in which they serve;

BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 12.9.2.2 of the General Constitution and By-Laws be amended as follows:

12.9.2.2 TERMS OF OFFICE, ENGAGEMENT AND VACANCIES

The terms of office and engagement for all district officers shall be as determined by the district conference ~~for two years from the time of their election or, if longer, as the district conference may determine. All such officers, with the exception of incumbents, shall take office at the close of the conference at which they are elected, except where other than the then present incumbent shall be elected to a full-time office. They shall assume office three months after the election, or earlier at the discretion of the district executive committee.~~

CARRIED

GCSM 26-14 **RESOLUTION #10 Pension Fund**

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

WHEREAS the Pension Fund (1969) of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada was incorporated in the Province of Ontario by way of Letters Patent on March 19, 1993; and

WHEREAS the Pension Fund (1969) of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada had never passed any by-laws, and had never specified who or what constitutes the Membership of the Corporation; and

WHEREAS the Pension Fund (1969) of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada operated and is operating as if the Members of the Corporation are the General Executive of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (the "PAOC") which is the Plan sponsor; and

WHEREAS the Pension Fund (1969) of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada has now upgraded its governing By-Law Number 1 – to be in compliance with the Ontario Not-For Profit Corporation's Act (ONCA) which includes the Plan Text and the Trust Agreement for the Pension Fund (1969) of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and wishes to formalize and codify the current governance of the Corporation with respect to its Members and plan members; retaining all governing relationships and provisions within By-Law 15 of the General Constitution and By-Laws of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada; and

WHEREAS the General Executive of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada is recommending this necessary amendment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 15 of The General Constitution and By-Laws be amended as follows;

BY-LAW 15 PENSION FUNDS

15.1 There shall be a Pension Fund in which membership shall be open to persons holding current credentials with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and employees of the International Office or any district office or any affiliated assembly or institution of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, or other qualifying institution, as provided in The Pension Fund (1969) of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada - By-Law Number 1 ~~The Plan Text of The Pension Fund (1969) of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.~~

15.2 The said pension funds shall be governed by ~~The Plan Text~~ the Pension Fund (1969) of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada - By-Law Number 1 as reviewed and recommended by the board of trustees directors of The Pension Fund (1969) of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and approved by the General Executive on behalf of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada as Plan Membership, ~~Sponsor~~, consistent with the Income Tax Act, of Canada, and regulations thereto and provincial pension acts and regulations.

~~**15.3** The General Executive is authorized to enter into and maintain a Trust Agreement and such other agreements as are required by applicable legislation with respect to The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada as the Plan Sponsor of The Pension Fund (1969) of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.~~

~~**15.4** The said pension funds shall be administered by a board of trustees consisting of the following:~~

~~**15.4.1** The General Secretary Treasurer as provided in By law 5.1.2.18 and the Director of Finance and Accounting of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.~~

~~**15.4.2** Two members of the General Executive, appointed by the General Executive. One of these members shall also be a member of The Pension Fund.~~

~~**15.4.3** One member at large who shall be a member of The Pension Fund holding current valid credentials with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, nominated by the Superintendents Committee and appointed by the General Executive.~~

~~**15.4.4** One member at large who shall be a non-credentialed member of The Pension Fund (1969) of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, nominated by the Superintendents Committee and appointed by the General Executive.~~

~~**15.4.5** A minimum of three and a maximum of five members at large, who are not members of the General Executive and who are qualified to exercise prudent trusteeship, to be appointed by the General Executive to provide for regional representation from a slate of at least one and not more than two nominations to be submitted by the district executive of each respective district. At least one of these members at large shall qualify as an independent trustee in accordance with the applicable legislation.~~

~~**15.4.6** The Chair shall be appointed by the General Executive. In the event of a vacancy in the~~

~~Chair, the Board may appoint an acting chair from among their members until the position is filled by appointment of the General Executive.~~

~~15.5 The term of office for appointed trustees shall be for a two-year period. In the event of death, resignation or inability to perform the duties of a trustee, the General Executive may appoint a replacement to complete the unexpired term.~~

~~15.6 OFFICERS~~

~~Where required by provincial legislation, the officers shall be the Chair, the Executive Director of The Pension Fund (1969) of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and such other officers as may be duly appointed by resolution of the board of trustees.~~

~~15.7 The General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada may consider the discontinuance and winding up of the pension fund only upon the prior recommendation of a general membership meeting of the pension fund or, in the case of a general membership meeting of the pension fund having been convened but without its quorum present, upon the prior recommendation of the board of trustees of the pension fund.~~

CARRIED

T. Couch read Resolution 11.

GCSM 26-15 **RESOLUTION #11 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 over 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~~ When 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 request was received from the floor to consider amending Section 14.5.2 of the Resolution. Discussion followed, noting time constraints and the need for further dialogue on the issue.

It was MOVED and SECONDED to postpone Resolution #11 to the next business session in Halifax, resulting in 104 in favor and 92 opposed. CARRIED

The Chair provided final comments and declared the Special Meeting of the General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada closed. M. Cornelius closed in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 PM ET.



David R. Wells
General Superintendent



C. Burton
General Secretary Treasurer