



The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
International Office, 2450 Milltower Court, Mississauga, ON L5N 5Z6

2010 General Conference Amendments to the *Local Church Constitution*

December 2010

Following each General Conference a summary of resolutions affecting the *Local Church Constitution and By-Laws* is provided to assist local assemblies in updating their local constitution. At the 2010 General Conference in Edmonton, the Local Church Constitution was revised, both in terms of its content and format with the following Resolutions being Moved, Seconded and CARRIED.

RESOLUTION # 16 LCC – BY-LAW 1.2.2 - MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS local churches do not always issue a membership card,

AND WHEREAS local churches may acknowledge church membership in a variety of ways,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 1.2.2 be amended as follows:

- 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 a ~~membership card~~ **notification confirming membership**. Membership may be reviewed annually by the membership committee.

RESOLUTION # 17 LCC – BY-LAW 2.1.3 / 2.1.5 – PASTORAL RESIGNATION

WHEREAS Employment Insurance benefits may be affected if a pastor has resigned or been asked to resign from their ministry position,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2.1.3 in the Local Church Constitution and By-Laws be amended as follows:

- 2.1.3 RESIGNATION CONCLUSION OF MINISTRY AGREEMENT:** The pastor may ~~resign~~ **conclude their ministry agreement** by giving a minimum of one (1) month written notice to the congregation or to the [leadership] by a letter addressed to the secretary of the [leadership] of the local church. The pastor must also immediately notify the district superintendent of this ~~resignation~~ **conclusion of ministry agreement**.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2.1.5 in the Local Church Constitution and By-Laws also be amended as follows:

- 2.1.5 PASTOR/CONGREGATION RELATIONSHIP:** When difficulties have arisen between the pastor and the [leadership] or congregation which do not involve the credentials of the

pastor, but only the position as pastor, and which apparently cannot be resolved at the local level, the pastor, the [leadership] or a quorum consisting of not fewer than one-third (1/3) of the regular members of the local church shall have the right to appeal to the district executive for help in resolving the impasse.

The refusal of a pastor to call a meeting of the [leadership] shall constitute the [leadership's] right to appeal to the district executive.

If a satisfactory settlement cannot be reached, the district superintendent may call a congregational meeting, to be presided over by the district superintendent or the authorized representative of the district superintendent.

If the district superintendent, or their representative, calls for a vote of confidence in the pastor, the roster for the vote shall include only those members who held membership 60 days prior to the vote of confidence and shall exclude the pastor and members of the pastoral staff, as identified in the minutes of the [leadership], and their spouses, who shall not be included in the quorum necessary to have a congregational meeting. The vote shall require a simple majority in support of the pastor, for the pastor to retain the position as pastor. If such is not achieved, the pastor's duties shall be terminated immediately, and the pastor shall be given a minimum of one (1) month salary but not more than three (3) months salary with benefits and the use of the parsonage during that period, or the regular housing allowance if the pastor is not living in the church parsonage. If the pastor has served for a period of a minimum of two (2) years and has failed to receive the required majority in the confidence vote, or has complied with a request from the [leadership] to ~~resign~~ **conclude their ministry agreement**, the pastor shall be given a maximum of three (3) months salary with benefits and the use of the parsonage during that period, or the equivalent housing allowance if the pastor is not living in the church parsonage.

RESOLUTION # 18 LCC – ARTICLE 2.1 - PASTOR'S COMPENSATION

WHEREAS the term car allowance has caused some confusion,

AND WHEREAS the pastor's role may include a variety of travel factors in the performance of ministerial duties,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article 2.1 of the Local Church Constitution be amended as follows:

ARTICLE 2 DEFINITION - LOCAL CHURCH: A local church desiring to affiliate with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada shall:

- 2.1** Assume all financial obligations in providing a place of worship and its operation, and adequate salary for its pastor, together with **provision for** suitable housing and ~~car allowance~~ **travel reimbursement**. Suitable housing shall be understood to mean an adequate dwelling, together with utilities such as heat, water, hydro and telephone or financial provision for such services, ~~and car allowance.~~

RESOLUTION # 19 LCC – ARTICLE 3 – BORROWING BY-LAW

WHEREAS banks and lending institutions may ask for a copy of the local church's "borrowing by-law",

AND WHEREAS there is not a specific Article or By-Law in the *Local Church Constitution and By-Laws* that addresses this issue in an appropriate format for the bank or lending institution,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following Article 3.5 be inserted into the Local Church Constitution as follows:

ARTICLE 3 PREROGATIVES

3.5 This local church shall have the right to borrow any sum or sums of money from a bank 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 bank 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 bank, 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 a bank may require, or as this local church sees fit.

AND FURTHER, THAT subsequent by laws be renumbered to adjust for the inclusion.

RESOLUTION # 20 LCC – ARTICLE 7 – PASTOR & [LEADERSHIP]

WHEREAS there may be a legitimate need to invite a district leader or another credential holder to serve on the [leadership] of a local church,

AND WHEREAS the district superintendent or the district superintendent's authorized representative may advise that a district leader or another credential holder serve on the [leadership] of a local church,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Article 7 of the Local Church Constitution be revised by the addition of Article 7.4 as follows:

7.4 The local church may extend membership privileges to a district leader or another PAOC credential holder and invite them to serve on the [leadership].

RESOLUTION # 21 LCC – BY-LAW 3.2 PASTOR'S COUNCIL

WHEREAS the Term of Office is previously stated under By-Law 2.3.4,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 3.2 under the alternate Pastor's Council be removed as follows:

OPTION TWO – PASTOR'S COUNCIL

~~3.2 TERM OF OFFICE~~

~~3.2.1 Normal term is three (3) years~~

~~3.2.2 Rotation: two (2) terms, to a maximum six (6) years~~

~~3.2.3 Any exceptions to this procedure would require the involvement of the district superintendent or their representative(s).~~

~~3.2.4 The local church may provide membership for a district leader or another credential holder and invite them to serve on the [leadership] if so advised by the district superintendent or their representative.~~

In order to take effect locally, each *self-governing assembly*, at a regularly convened congregational meeting is required to adopt amendments individually, OR adopt the *Local Church Constitution* (as approved at the 2010 General Conference) in one single motion. However, we ask that you please point out to the members the potential changes.

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

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

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

The new Local Church Constitution can be viewed and downloaded from www.paoc.org -> Fellowship Services -> Forms and Documents -> Constitutions -> Local Church Constitution. Should you desire to receive a hard copy of these documents, please contact Kara Dzikowski at 905-542-7400 ext. 3251.

Further, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact your District Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hazzard". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

David Hazzard
Assistant Superintendent for Fellowship Services