



2450 Milltower Court Mississauga, ON L5N 5Z6

**2016 General Conference Amendments
to the *Local Church Constitution***

May 2016

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 2016 General Conference in Montreal, the Local Church Constitution was revised, both in terms of its content and format with the following Resolution being Moved, Seconded and CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #22 LCC BY-LAW 2.1.5 EXTENDED ABSENCE

WHEREAS there are situations which require an extended leave of absence by the senior pastor;

AND WHEREAS the District Superintendent or their representative may be invited to assist during the extended absence;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Local Church Constitution By-Law 2.1.5 be amended by addition as follows:

LCC BY-LAW 2.1.5 EXTENDED ABSENCE: In the event that the pastor is or may be absent for an extended period due to inability or ineligibility to serve, the District Superintendent or their authorized representative may, in conjunction with the board, assist in arranging for pulpit supply and chair the board.

AND FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the remaining items be renumbered appropriately.

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 2016 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 -> Church Resources -> Constitutions. Should you desire to receive a hard copy of these documents, please contact the Order Desk at 905-542-7400 ext. 3223 or orderdesk@paoc.org.

In addition, in my report at General Conference, I made reference to the value of a PAOC credential for ministerial staff, given the shifting cultural values in Canada and potential exposure to employment litigation.

We encourage churches to consider requiring all staff to have:

- a. A PAOC credential or
- b. Membership in the local church or
- c. A contract that requires annual renewal

Enclosed, you will find a copy of our credential information brochure.

If you have any questions on the Local Church Constitution or credential matters, 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 "David" and "Hazzard" being capitalized and prominent.

David Hazzard
General Secretary Treasurer