

# COMMITTEE ON GENERAL LEGISLATION

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## General Assembly 2024

July 9, 2024

The Committee on General Legislation has thoroughly and prayerfully considered the sections of the Reports to General Assembly 2024 and other such requests referred to it. We commend the Board of Directors for their extensive work concerning these matters.

In our process, we have met with the President, Vice President of Operations and Strategy Execution, and the Senior Program and Services Manager. We met with everyone who requested a meeting and are grateful for all the input we received from delegates. Their proposals were considered and discussed.

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### ***Resolution #1***

The Board of Directors recommendation #6 states:

The Board of Directors recommends that the following be added to the Policy on General Assembly, Item 3.1.1. Voting Delegates include:

e) Lay members of District Executive Committees

### ***Be it Resolved That***

Board of Directors' Recommendation #6 be adopted.

It is moved by Steve Schneider and seconded by David Pett that Resolution #1 be adopted.

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### ***Resolution #2***

Board of Directors Recommendation #7 states:

The Board of Directors recommends the following changes to the Policy on General Assembly, Article 4 – General Assembly Committees:

1. That Item 4.1. be deleted:
  - 4.1. The Committee on General Assembly Committees  
This committee shall be composed as follows:
    - a) One member appointed by the Board of Directors, who shall be the Chair,
    - b) One international worker on regular home assignment, appointed by the Board of Directors,
    - c) One member from each district of the C&MA, appointed by the respective District Executive Committee.
2. That Item 4.3. be deleted:
  - 4.3. Executive Leadership of General Assembly Committees
    - 4.3.1. The chair, vice chair, and secretary of each General Assembly committee, other than the Committee on Nominations, shall be appointed by the Board of Directors prior to General Assembly.
3. That Item 4.4. be amended to state:

4.4. Composition and Appointment of General Assembly Committees

4.4.2. The Committee on Rules is a three-member committee composed of the chair, vice chair, and secretary only, appointed by the Board of Directors.

4.4.3. Other committees shall include:

- a) The chair, vice chair, and secretary, as appointed by the Board of Directors out of the committee membership elected by District Conference.
- b) As far as possible, three persons elected by each District Conference.
- c) Three international workers appointed by the Board of Directors.
- d) ~~Three representatives at large appointed by the Board of Directors.~~

***Be it Resolved That***

Board of Directors' Recommendation #7 be adopted.

It is moved by Steve Schneider and seconded by David Pett that Resolution #2 be adopted.

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***Resolution #3***

Board of Directors Recommendation #8 states:

The Board of Directors recommends that the Policy on District Organization, Article 2 – Organization and Government, Section 2.4. Elections/Appointments, Item 2.4.2. District Superintendent, be amended to read:

The district superintendent shall be elected by District Conference and appointed by the President.

***Be it Resolved That***

Board of Directors' Recommendation #8 be adopted.

It is moved by Steve Schneider and seconded by David Pett that Resolution #3 be adopted.

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***Resolution #4***

Board of Directors' recommendation #8.a. states:

The Board of Directors recommends the following changes to the Policy on District Organization, Article 2 – Organization and Government, Section 2.4. Elections/Appointments:

2.4.4. General Assembly Committees ~~on Nominations~~

2.4.4.1 District Conference shall elect members to the following General Assembly committees to serve at the next biennial General Assembly:

- a) Two members to the Committee on Nominations.
- b) Three members to the Committee on Finance.
- c) Three members to the Committee on General Legislation.
- d) Three members to the Committee on Strategic Plan.

2.4.4.2 In the event that an elected member is not able to serve, the District Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement to serve on this committee ensuring

that, as far as possible, any lay nominee who cannot serve is replaced by a lay delegate.

***Be it Resolved That***

Board of Directors' Recommendation #8.a. be adopted.

It is moved by Steve Schneider and seconded by David Pett that Resolution #4 be adopted.

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***Resolution #5***

Board of Directors recommendation #9 states:

The Board of Directors recommends that in the Policy on Process for Electing the District Superintendent, Item 4.8 be deleted:

- 4.8. The elected candidate shall be declared the district superintendent for the next term.

Whereas the Committee on General Legislation agrees with the Board of Directors' intent to clarify that the appointment is made by the President after the election; and

Whereas it is helpful to provide further clarification regarding the appointment of the District Superintendent,

***Be it Resolved That***

Board of Directors' Recommendation #9 be adopted with the following amendments:

That the Policy on Process for Electing the District Superintendent, Item 4.8 be amended to read:

- 4.8. The elected candidate shall be declared the district superintendent for the next term upon appointment by the President.

It is moved by Steve Schneider and seconded by David Pett that Resolution #5 be adopted.

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***Resolution #6***

Whereas there is already a provision in the Policy on General Assembly for lay members of special committees of General Assembly to be listed as voting delegates; and

Whereas during the business sessions of General Assembly it does happen that matters are discussed on the floor of General Assembly that informs the work and final reports including any recommendation to General Assembly by the standing committees; and

Whereas General Assembly standing committee members are expected to be available immediately before and during General Assembly in case the respective committee needs to meet and/or consider other matters for General Assembly;

***Be it Resolved That***

The Board of Directors address the addition of lay members of General Assembly Standing Committees to the list of delegates to General Assembly listed in the Policy on General Assembly, Item 3.1.1., and report back to General Assembly 2026.

It is moved by Steve Schneider and seconded by David Pett that Resolution #6 be adopted.

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***Resolution #7***

Whereas the Practical Application of the Statement on Human Sexuality for Ministry and Leadership contains the following directive in Article 2, “persons who are, without repentance, engaging in sexual behaviour and relationships contrary to the Statement on Human Sexuality (this includes, but is not limited to pre-marital relationships, extra-marital relationships, same-sex relationships, and polyamorous relationships) or persons who are not able to abide by the Statement on Human Sexuality shall not: a) Be issued formal membership in a Christian and Missionary Alliance Church”; and

Whereas this statement directly affects membership in a local church; and

Whereas the Manual of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada states that the Official Statements in Section B of the Manual “are to be accepted and declared by ... workers and members of local churches;”

***Be it Resolved That***

The Board of Directors review the need to include the acceptance of all official statements as part of the membership requirements listed in the Local Church Constitution Article 6.1 (Membership – Privileges and Qualifications) and the Constitution for Developing Churches Article 6.1 (Membership – Qualifications) and report back to General Assembly 2026.

It is moved by Steve Schneider and seconded by David Pett that Resolution #7 be adopted.

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***Resolution #8***

Whereas amendments made to documents in the Manual of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada that the Board of Directors control (e.g. A Call to Excellence, Policy on Discipline, Restoration, and Appeal for Official Workers) have ramifications on licensed workers; and

Whereas although there is a process in place for communicating these changes and a recognition that there is some responsibility on licensed workers to keep abreast of these changes, the Committee on General Legislation believes that this communication is sometimes ineffectual; and

Whereas there is no clearly understood method to bring feedback to the Board of Directors regarding changes that are made to documents;

***Be it Resolved That***

The Board of Directors review and enhance the process for dissemination of information regarding changes to documents that the Board of Directors has the responsibility to amend as well as clarify a clear feedback mechanism for these changes.

It is moved by Steve Schneider and seconded by David Pett that Resolution #8 be adopted.

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***Resolution #9***

Whereas Local Church Constitution, Article 8 – Board, Section 8.1 Composition and Responsibilities states that: “The church may, by a two-thirds majority of the members present at a duly called meeting of the membership, choose to have women serve on the Board”; and

Whereas this statement implies a predetermined Complementarian default position of a church; and

Whereas this statement does not address the requirement for a church to move from an egalitarian to a complementarian position; and

Whereas this statement does not provide clarity on requirements for new or new-to-the-Alliance churches; and

Whereas the Statement on the Roles of Men and Women in Ministry 2.6 states: “The Alliance is committed to allowing denominational leaders to live within their theological convictions regarding the roles of men and women in the church;” and

Whereas this statement implies no preferred position on the Roles of Men and Women in Leadership; and

Whereas there is merit in maintaining a voting requirement that is greater than a simple majority to make major changes in a church’s position on the Roles of Men and Women in Leadership; and

Whereas there is merit in maintaining stability in issues that are not unanimous;

***Be it Resolved That***

The Board of Directors review the statement in Local Church Constitution Article 8 – Board, Section 8.1 regarding women serving on the board to address moving either way between Complementarian and Egalitarian positions while maintaining the current 2/3rds majority vote requirement to change positions and to include requirements for new and new-to-the-Alliance churches and report back to General Assembly 2026.

It is moved by Steve Schneider and seconded by David Pett that Resolution #9 be adopted.

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**Resolution #10**

Whereas the Bylaws, Policies, Statements and Guidelines that can only be amended by General Assembly can only be amended with “written notice having been given prior to General Assembly”; and

Whereas there may be confusion regarding the appropriate timeline and methods that constitute written notice to be given for amendments to such documents; and

Whereas the draft reports of committees are received prior to General Assembly;

***Be it Resolved That***

The Board of Directors review the wording regarding written notice of amendments to documents that are amended by General Assembly to increase clarity and report back to General Assembly 2026.

It is moved by Steve Schneider and seconded by David Pett that Resolution #10 be adopted.

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**Resolution #11**

Whereas the Board of Directors and the General Legislation Committee have proposed changes to the Voting Delegates under the Policy on General Assembly 3.1.1; and

Whereas the General Operating Bylaw No. 3, Article 2 – Membership – Item 2.4 – Delegate lists delegates to General Assembly;

***Be it Resolved That***

The Board of Directors propose revisions to the General Operating Bylaw No. 3, Article 2 – Membership – Item 2.4 – Delegate to reflect any changes to the voting delegates listed in the Policy on General Assembly 3.1.1 and report back to General Assembly 2026.

It is moved by Steve Schneider and seconded by David Pett that Resolution #11 be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Schneider, Chair  
David Pett, Vice-Chair  
Don Neufeld, Secretary