

**CENTRAL COMMUNITY CHURCH LETTERS PATENT,
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

AND

***STATEMENT OF ESSENTIAL TRUTHS AND POSITIONS AND
PRACTICES
2023***

THE PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF CANADA
INTERNATIONAL OFFICE
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**The CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS
OF
CENTRAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Incorporated in the Province of Ontario
August 19th, 1988**

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

Adopted this February 11, 2024

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PREAMBLE

For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a place for the worship of Almighty God, our Heavenly Father; to provide for Christian fellowship for those of like precious faith where the Holy Spirit may be honoured according to our distinctive testimony; to assume our share of responsibility and the privilege of propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ by all available means, both at home and in foreign lands, we, the partners of Central Community Church, do hereby recognize ourselves as a local church in fellowship with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and shall adopt the following articles of church order and submit ourselves to be governed by them.

All local churches are recognized as self-governing with the inherent right to sovereignty in the conduct of their own affairs. This local church shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with churches of like precious faith associated in the Western Ontario district conference and the General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, with headquarters at Mississauga, Ontario; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

CENTRAL COMMUNITY CHURCH CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1: NAME

1.1 The legal name of this Church shall be “Central Community Church,” hereinafter referred to as the “Church” operating in the Province of Ontario under articles of incorporation issued in accordance with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, dated August 19, 1988 and revised on July 4, 2009.

ARTICLE 2: DEFINITIONS

The following shall be the definitions of terms and words used throughout this Constitution and By-Laws:

- “A Call” means to extend an invitation to the person who has been selected to become the Lead Pastor;
- “Annual Business Meeting” means a duly called meeting to conduct official business by the partners in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Constitution;
- “Articles of Incorporation” means our legal documents that established the Church as an Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporation and issued by the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations;
- “Assembly”, “congregation” and “local church” all mean the Partners and adherents of the Church;
- “Business Meeting” means either the Annual Business Meeting or a Special Business Meeting;
- “By-Laws” means the By-Laws of the Constitution;
- “Church Board” means those who serve the Congregation and make up the Church Board as defined in [Article 7.2](#), who serve to give oversight to the temporal and spiritual work of the church;
- “Constitution” means the Constitution of Central Community Church;
- “Directors” means the voting members of the Church Board as elected by the voting partners at a duly called Annual Business Meeting. Directors are charged with the oversight of the church, its ministries, and its temporal affairs;
- “District” means the Western Ontario District Conference of the PAOC;
- “District Superintendent” means the person elected to serve in this office by the voting members of the Western Ontario District Conference of the PAOC;
- “National Office” means the international office of the PAOC;
- “Officers” means those members of the Church Board who are appointed by the Directors (see above) to fulfill various duties and tasks on behalf of the Board. See [Article 7.2.2](#);
- “ONCA” means the [Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010, S.O. 2010, c. 15](#). The Church was incorporated as a Provincial Corporation Without Share Capital (not-for-profit) in 1988 (revised in 2009) and governs its temporal affairs in accordance with this Act;
- “PAOC” means The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada;
- “Partner” means those persons meeting and maintaining the qualifications set forth in [Article 6.1](#) hereof who form the voting body of the Congregation and who have been accepted by the Church Board as a Partner;
- “Pastor” means the person elected lead pastor pursuant to [Article 7](#);

- “Quorum” means the number of people required to be present for a meeting to be held;
- “Scripture” means the Holy Bible as defined in the Statement of Fundamental Faith;
- “Secretary” means the person who has been appointed to hold the office of Secretary by the Church Board;
- “Special Business Meeting” means a meeting duly called to conduct official business by the Partners.

ARTICLE 3: PREROGATIVES

Central Community Church, along with the objectives and special provisions as listed in the Letters Patent:

3.1 Shall have the right to govern itself according to Biblical standards.

3.2 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 of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

3.3 Shall be duly registered as a charity under the [Income Tax Act](#).

3.4 Shall have the right to develop policies and procedures that guide its operation as determined by the Directors.

3.5 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.

3.6 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, liabilities 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. *See also [Article 9](#) and [Bylaw 2.1](#).*

3.7 Shall have the right to consider a resolution to withdraw from affiliation with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, provided a quorum of two-thirds (2/3) of the Partnership (excluding Honourary Partners and any Legacy Partners not present) is met at any Business Meeting called for such purpose. The meeting shall be called with no less than ninety (90) days notice given to the Partners. A three-quarters (75%) resolution of the Partners at the said Business Meeting shall be required in order to authorize the Church to withdraw from affiliation with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

ARTICLE 4: TENETS OF FAITH

4.1 We believe most assuredly that the Holy Scriptures are God's final revelation and constitute our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This local church, by virtue of its affiliation with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, shall accept the current version of the [Statement of Essential Truths](#), as approved by the General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and which is appended to this constitution.

ARTICLE 5: ORDINANCES AND PRACTICES

5.1 ORDINANCES

5.1.1 The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water (Matthew 28:19) shall be offered to all those who have repented of their sins, and have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation (Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).

5.1.2 The ordinance of Communion (the Lord's Supper) shall be regularly observed as enjoined in the Scriptures (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

5.2 PRACTICES

5.2.1 Dedication of children

5.2.2 Prayer for the baptism with the Holy Spirit

5.2.3 Prayer for the sick

5.2.4 Christian marriage (as defined by the *Statement of Essential Truths and Positions and Practices* of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada)

5.2.5 Christian burial of the dead

ARTICLE 6: PARTNERSHIP

6.1 Persons 18 years of age and over desiring to become Partners of this local church shall give credible profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and shall live in accordance with Central Community Church's Partnership Agreement and this Constitution. Partnership will be administered through the Church Board as outlined in [Bylaw 4](#), and governed by Board established policies and procedures.

6.2 PRIVILEGES

- 6.2.1** It is the privilege of Partners to give oversight to the church by:
- a. Approving the yearly financial statements and auditor ([Article 8](#));
 - b. Electing Directors of the Church Board ([Article 7.2](#));
 - c. Approving the Lead Pastor ([Article 7.1.2](#));
 - d. Approving changes to the church Constitution and By-Laws ([Article 10](#), [By-Law 3](#));
 - e. Approving the purchase and disposal of church property ([Article 9](#)).

6.3 VOTING LIMITS

6.3.1 In order to be eligible to vote at an Annual or Special Business Meeting a person must become a Partner of the Church no less than 30 days prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE 7: LEAD PASTOR AND CHURCH BOARD

7.1 LEAD PASTOR

7.1.1 DUTIES:

It is the primary duty of the Lead Pastor to give spiritual oversight to Central Community Church.

7.1.2 Nominations for lead pastor shall be submitted to the local church congregation by the Church Board, after consultation with the District Superintendent.

7.1.3 The Lead Pastor must be one who holds an active credential in good standing with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada or one whom the district executive officers of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada approve.

7.1.4 APPOINTMENT AND CALL:

A call shall be extended to a Lead Pastor when the pastor receives a two-thirds (2/3, 67%) majority of the ballots cast by voting partners at a duly convened meeting for that purpose. Upon acceptance of the call or confirmation of the appointment, a ministry agreement shall be established.

7.1.5 RESIGNATION:

The Lead Pastor, where possible, shall inform the Church Board of their intention to resign no less than 3 months and no more than 6 months prior to the date they will vacate their position. This is to give adequate time for the church to transition. However, in the event of unexpected reasons (including but not limited to health concerns) the Lead Pastor will give as much notice as possible of their intention to resign.

7.1.6 RETIREMENT:

The Lead Pastor shall inform the Church Board of their intention to retire with as much notice as possible. The Lead Pastor shall then work with the Board to ensure an adequate transition plan is in place.

7.1.7 TERMINATION:

In the event of a moral or legal failure, allegations of activity of a concerning nature, or any activity of the Lead Pastor which may bring the church or leadership into disrepute, or unresolvable disagreements between the pastor and the Church Board, the Church Board will report the issue to the Superintendent of the Western District of the PAOC and ask that an investigation be launched. Once the District has conducted their investigation and reported back to the Church Board, the Church Board, in consultation with the District, will then be able to determine if it is necessary to terminate the Lead Pastor.

7.1.7.1 If it is deemed necessary to terminate the Lead Pastor the Church Board shall inform the Lead Pastor in writing of their intention to terminate.

7.1.7.1.1 If the Lead Pastor chooses to resign instead of pursuing a vote then they shall be given the opportunity to do so without regard to any provision of [7.1.5](#) above.

7.1.7.2 The Church Board shall hold a duly called Special Business Meeting of the church Partners in keeping with the requirements of such a meeting (see [Article 8.2](#)). The Chair of the Church Board shall chair the meeting. The Superintendent of the Western District of the PAOC may be asked to attend this meeting to offer support to the Board.

7.1.7.3 The Church Board will conduct a vote in which a two-thirds majority (2/3, 67%) majority of the ballots cast by voting Partners must be in favour of terminating the Lead Pastor.

7.1.7.4 The Church Board shall inform the Lead Pastor of the results of the vote immediately following the vote. This may be done orally but must be accompanied by a written statement within three (3) days of the vote.

7.1.7.5 In the event that the vote is to terminate the employment of the Lead Pastor the Board will ensure that all due compensation is paid out in accordance with the Ontario Employment Standards Act and any other legislation covering the dismissal of employees.

7.1.8 VACANCY:

In the event of a vacancy for any reason, the Church Board, in consultation with the Pastoral Staff, shall ensure the continuation of the Lead Pastor's duties until such a time as the incumbent Lead Pastor can return to work or until the vacancy has been filled as per [7.1.2](#). The Church Board will also notify the PAOC of such a vacancy.

7.2 CHURCH BOARD:

The Church Board shall consist of not fewer than three (3) Directors (if more, the exact number and the resolution authorizing the same must be duly recorded in the church minutes) who will serve as Directors of the Corporation as elected by the Partners at a duly called business meeting.

7.2.1 REMUNERATION:

In accordance with Central's Letters Patent and the ONCA, board members shall serve without remuneration, and they shall not directly or indirectly receive any profit from their position as such; provided that directors may be paid for reasonable expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

7.2.2 OFFICERS:

The Church Board shall elect officers to serve on the board from its Directors.

7.2.3 Officers of the Board shall include Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary

7.2.3 QUALIFICATIONS:

The qualifications for service on the Church Board shall be determined and approved in accordance with the policy of this local church, as guided by such scriptural provisions as are cited in Acts 6:3, I Timothy 3:8-13, and Titus 1:5-9. The official Church Board shall be comprised of members who are of good report and sound judgment, examples to the congregation in matters of stewardship, church attendance, and spiritual maturity, and seeking constantly, as sanctified vessels, to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4; Ephesians 5:18).

7.2.4 FURTHER QUALIFICATIONS:

As the Church is an incorporated entity within the Province of Ontario all Board Members must also meet the qualifications for service as outlined in the Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act, Section 23.1. Board Members must be an existing Partner of the Church.

7.2.5 DUTIES:

The Church Board is chosen to serve the church with the pastor in matters pertaining to the operation of the local church. They shall assist in the ministry of its ordinances and shall act in the examination of applications for partnership, and also in the administration of the discipline of the local church. They shall appoint a recording secretary from among their members to record the minutes of their meetings

7.2.6 ACCOUNTABILITY:

The Church Board is accountable to the Partners and regular attenders of Central Community Church. They will act honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of the Church.

7.2.7 QUORUM:

A majority of voting members present in any meeting of the Church Board shall constitute a quorum, provided that all the Directors have been notified to be present. Despite any vacancy among the board members, a quorum of Directors may exercise all the powers of the Board.

7.2.8 TERM OF OFFICE:

The term of office of all Directors of the Church Board shall be for no more than three years, as determined by By-Law #5. After a Director has served for six consecutive years, the Director will not be considered eligible to serve on the Church Board for a period of one (1) year.

7.2.8.1 Termination of membership on the Church Board shall occur if any Church Board Director, during the term of office, shall resign, move away, cease to be a Partner, or be disqualified according to [Article 6.1](#) of this Constitution. Provision is hereby made for the remaining directors of the Church Board to appoint a successor until the next annual meeting.

7.2.9 CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Church Board Directors shall not place themselves in a position where there is conflict of interest between their duties as Church Board Directors and personal interests. Every Church Board Director who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in, or may become interested in, an existing or proposed contract, transaction, or arrangement with the church or who otherwise has a conflict of interest by virtue of involvement of a family member or the involvement of an employer, partner, business associate, or a corporation that the Director is involved with as either a director, shareholder, officer, employee, or agent, then such Church Board Director shall declare a conflict of interest fully at a meeting of the board and withdraw from any discussion or vote.

ARTICLE 8: BUSINESS MEETINGS

8.1 METHOD OF CONDUCTING BUSINESS MEETINGS: A partner present in a business meeting shall be understood to mean:

8.1.1 In person; or

8.1.2 Electronically, that permits participation by registered voting partner, subject to any rules regarding participation in an electronic meeting that the Church Board may declare; or

8.1.3 A combination of in-person and electronic means that satisfies the requirements prescribed in this Article.

8.2 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING: Central Community Church will hold an annual business meeting that is not more than 15 months from the date of the previous meeting. The meeting may consist of various sessions as deemed required for the completion of annual business.

8.2.1 NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING: Two weeks (14 days) notice shall be given of the annual business meeting with a public announcement in the main service(s) as well as being posted and publicized in the local church. It shall include date, time and purpose of the meeting.

8.2.2 PARLIAMENTARY ORDER: In order to expedite business meetings this local church shall be governed by the spirit of Christian love and fellowship and by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure as outlined in *Robert's Rules of Order*.

8.3 SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS: Special business meetings may be called by:

8.3.1 The secretary of the Church Board upon written order of a majority of the Church Board; (ONCA 2021, c. 34, s. 52 (2))

8.3.2 By petition of no less than ten percent (10%) of the Partners of the congregation. Such a petition shall be handed to the Church Board, whose duty it shall be to give notice and hold such a meeting within 21 days of receipt of the request. Failure to hold the meeting within that time can result in the Partners holding the meeting themselves. (ONCA, 2021, c. 34, s. 60)

8.4 QUORUM: Forty (40) percent of the voting partnership shall be required to constitute a quorum. Those partners who by reasons of health are unable to regularly attend church meetings may be omitted from the quorum calculation.

8.5 AGENDA: The agenda shall be prepared by the Church Board. An agenda item may be submitted for consideration to the Church Board by a Partner in good standing. It must be in writing, signed, and in the possession of the Church Board at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE 9: PROPERTY

9.1. All real estate owned by this local church shall be held in the name of the local church in its corporate name as a local church of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

9.2 The acquiring and disposal of real property valued at 10% and above of the yearly income of the church shall be decided by a two thirds (67%) majority of the eligible votes cast by partners present at a duly called business meeting.

ARTICLE 10: AMENDMENTS

10.1 This constitution may be amended at any Annual Business Meeting of this local church or at any Special Business Meeting duly called for that specific purpose, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment has been presented in writing to the Church Board and to the District Superintendent at least 30 days before the date of the Business Meeting, and providing that notice of said proposed amendment has been given in the announcements of the said business meeting.

10.2 A copy of the proposed amendment or amendments shall be available to any voting partner between the time of the announcement and the time of the Business Meeting on application to the secretary of the Church Board.

10.3 An amendment to be adopted shall require a two thirds (67%) majority vote of the partners present and voting at the meeting. Such amendment shall not be contrary to the regulations of *ONCA*, other applicable provincial laws, Central's *Letters Patent*, the General Conference of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, or the *General Constitution and By-Laws* or District constitution and by-laws or *Local Church Constitution and By-Laws* of The PAOC.

BY-LAWS

BY-LAW 1: RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES OF AFFILIATION

1.1 Accepting our responsibility under the great commission of the Lord Jesus Christ, as stated in Matthew 28 and Mark 16, this local church shall support the missionary program and policy of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

1.2 Recognizing the important services rendered to this congregation by the international and district offices of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, this local church shall support the ministry and fellowship services of the International and District offices, the international missions objectives of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada Bible college serving this district, and other responsibilities as may be determined by the General Conference of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

1.2.1 This shall be done in accordance with the General Conference resolution that each local church forward an amount equal to ten (10) percent of its general fund offerings (does not include missionary offerings, building fund, or any other special fund) to the District office at regular intervals to support the ministry and fellowship services. The District office will forward ten (10) percent from these funds to the International Office for ministry and fellowship services.

BY-LAW 2: FINANCES

2.1 Prior to the making an application for a loan from any source or incurring indebtedness on a purchase plan or otherwise when repayment is not to be made in full within 12 months of the date of the intended loan or where the intended indebtedness, together with all other indebtedness of the said local church, in the aggregate will exceed ten (10) percent of the total amount of the previous year's gross revenues, this local church shall obtain the approval of its congregation to the proposed action by resolution, passed at a duly called special or regular annual business meeting.

2.2 The District executive of the Western Ontario District of the PAOC has the privilege to create policies which will allow local churches to request care and intervention from time to time.

BY-LAW 3: AMENDMENTS

3.1 These by-laws may be amended at any Annual Business Meeting of this local church or any Special Business Meeting duly called for that specific purpose, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment has been presented in writing to the Church Board and to the District Superintendent at least 30 days before the date of the business meeting, and providing that notice of said proposed amendment shall have been given in the announcements of the said business meeting.

3.2 A copy of the proposed amendment or amendments shall be available to any voting member between the time of announcement and the time of the Business Meeting on application to the secretary of the Church Board.

3.3 An amendment to be adopted shall require a three-quarters (3/4, 75%) majority vote. Such amendment shall not be contrary to the regulations of the General Conference or *General Constitution and By-Laws* or district constitution and by-laws or *Local Church Constitution and By-Laws* of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, or contrary to the *Declaration of Trust*, where applicable.

BY-LAW 4: PARTNERSHIP

4.1 Partners are held to a Biblical standard of living and must affirm the following statements of faith:

4.1.1 The Bible is the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:15-16)

4.1.2 There is one God, eternally existent in three person: Father, Son & Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16,17; Mark 12:29)

4.1.3 Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, was crucified and resurrected three days later (Isaiah 7:14; Romans 8:34; Acts 1:10-11)

4.1.4 Sins can be forgiven through Jesus alone (Isaiah 55:7; Romans 4:23-25; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

4.1.5 Water baptism is a public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-5)

4.2 Partners agree to take ownership of and responsibility for the church family, including participating in the community through generous and cheerful giving of their time, talent, and treasure. They formally commit themselves to the mission of Central and work in a mutually accountable community.

4.3 Prior to being approved as a partner, a current board member of the Church will interview each individual who applies for partnership to ensure the individual is aligned with this bylaw as well as current policies and procedures surrounding partnership. Partners will be approved by a majority vote of the Board, after the previous steps have been confirmed.

4.4 PARTNERSHIP RENEWAL:

Partnership will be renewed every year as outlined in established policies and procedures. If Partners are unable to commit to the accepted expectations, Partnership will lapse.

4.5 SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP STATUS: At times, it may not be possible for some Partners to abide by all expectations of partnership. The following statuses have been formed for their respective circumstances:

4.5.1 A “Legacy Partner” is a Partner who has held partnership for at least 10 years, but is unable to serve as a normal Partner would due to their age. They are able to vote and participate as a normal member would.

4.5.2 An “Honorary Partner” is a Partner who has moved outside of the country for missionary work. They are unable to regularly attend or volunteer, but may retain their partnership as an Honorary Partner.

BY-LAW 5: BOARD ELECTION PROCESS and TERM LIMITS

5.1 The Board of Directors is elected by the partners by way of a process involving a Selection Committee and a Final Partnership Vote

5.2 The Selection Committee is formed by the following process:

5.2.1 The Board of Directors selects three of the directors to sit on the Selection Committee

5.2.2 The Partnership receives a notification (by email or other method) requesting nominations for the Selection Committee. These requests will be made as a part of the annual partnership renewal process.

5.2.3 Those persons who are nominated for the Selection Committee confirm their willingness to have their name stand for the Selection Committee

5.2.4 The Board of Directors will prayerfully review and select four nominees based on qualifications, nominations, and diversity representation

5.2.5 After the selection has been made, both selected and non-selected individuals are informed by email of their inclusion or exclusion on the nominee list

5.2.6 At a session of the Annual Business Meeting, partners are informed of the proposed selection Committee and vote on the slate of names presented.

5.2.6.1 A majority vote of 50 plus 1% of the partners will constitute an acceptance of the slate of nominations and the formation of the Selection Committee

5.2.6.2 If the Partners do not vote to approve the slate of names presented, a comprehensive list of nominated individuals will be presented until a majority vote is reached

5.3 Upon formation of the Selection Committee, each member is required to sign a confidentiality agreement.

5.4 The Board of Directors is Selected as Follows:

5.4.1 In the same notification that is described in 5.2.2 above, the Partners would have received a notification requesting nominations for the Board of Directors.

5.4.2 The Selection Committee reviews the nominations provided by the Partners and removes those who do not meet basic requirements

5.4.2.1 Requirements include being a partner, regular giving, leadership and volunteering or participation in a group

5.4.3 The remaining nominees are informed of their nomination by email (or current method) and invited to a mandatory meeting which is facilitated by current board members

5.4.4 The Board nominees are then required to submit applications for consideration by the deadline as set out by the Selection Committee

5.4.5 The Selection Committee reviews all applications, conducts prayerful assessments based

on all requirements of the Board Applications and completes a rubric whereby selections are made. In review of nominees, the Selection Committee will consider the requirements for Board Directors including the current needs of the Board as deemed by the current needs of the church.

5.4.6 If necessary, the Selection Committee conducts interviews with top candidates

5.4.7 After all necessary considerations are made, the Selection Committee selects the required number of names for proposal to the Board of Directors

5.4.8 The Board of Directors reviews and approves the selected nominees or offers comments for reconsideration.

5.4.9 Once approved, the selected candidates are notified of their selection

5.4.10 Those Candidates not selected are also informed

5.4.11 The slate of names for elected are provided to the Partners for their consideration and vote

5.4.12 At the final session of the Annual Business Meeting, the slate of names is presented to the Partners for affirmation and approval.

5.4.12.1 A majority vote of 50 plus 1% of the partners is required for the slate to be accepted and the nominees elected.

5.4.12.2 If the partners vote to reject the slate of names, a comprehensive list of nominated individuals is provided for the Partners to vote on until a majority vote is reached for each new Director of the Board.

5.5 Once Elected, directors shall serve on the Board for a three year term.

5.5.1 At the end of the three year term, the director has the option of seeking reelection for another three year term with the maximum consecutive time on the board being a period of 6 years.

BY-LAW 6: STANDING COMMITTEES

6.1 At any time during the course of operations on behalf of the church, the Board of Directors may require standing committees to conduct business on behalf of the Board of Directors.

6.1 Standing Committees are composed of directors and non directors who are appointed by the Board to serve as the need arises.

6.1.2 Non Director members of Standing Committees are not elected by Partners

6.1.3 Non Director members of Standing Committees do not attend meetings of the Board of Directors unless invited for a specific purpose

6.1.4 Standing Committees exist only for the purposes of the current board and can be discontinued at any time at the discretion of the sitting Board of Directors

STATEMENT OF ESSENTIAL TRUTHS AND POSITIONS AND PRACTICES

Article 5 and Article 6 of the *General Constitution and By-Laws Amended by General Conference, May 2022*

ARTICLE 5: STATEMENT OF ESSENTIAL TRUTHS

PREAMBLE

This version of the Statement of Essential Truths represents the result of an extensive collaborative process to rephrase and refresh what is most essential to us. As before, we make no claim that this statement covers all biblical truth, nor that the human phraseology employed here is inspired/ We recognize as we did at the outset of our movement that there is some diversity of theological thought among us, but we remain committed as a Pentecostal community to the historic creeds of the church, to evangelical convictions of faith, and to the Full Gospel that is Saviour, Healer, Spirit–Baptizer, and Soon Coming King.

TRIUNE GOD

There is one God, the creator, who exists eternally in unity as three equal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.¹ The triune God is loving, holy, infinite, just, and worthy of all worship.²

The Father accomplishes his plan of salvation through both redemption and judgement.³ All things will be subject to him, and his kingdom will have no end.⁴

The Father sent the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of Mary when she was a virgin.⁵ Jesus became fully human while remaining fully God.⁶ Anointed by the Spirit, Jesus revealed the Father and the kingdom of God by his sinless life, teaching, and miracles.⁷ After he died for our sin, God raised him from the dead, and he is now at the right hand of the Father.⁸

The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father through the Son and gives life throughout creation.⁹ The Spirit draws people to repentance and new life in Jesus Christ.¹⁰ Through the Spirit's indwelling, the Father and the Son are present to all believers, making them children of God.¹¹

¹ Matt 28:19; 2Cor 13:14

² Exod 34:6-7; Psa 99:4-5

³ Exod 6:6; Rom 1:16-18

⁴ Psa 103:19; Rev 11:15; Eph 1:10

⁵ Matt 1:18-25

⁶ John 1:1,14; Col 1:19; Heb 2:17

⁷ John 1:32; 14:7-10; Luke 4:18-19

⁸ Acts 2:32-33; Rom 8:34

⁹ Psa 104:21-30; Acts 2:33

¹⁰ John 16:7-15

¹¹ Rom 8:14-17; 1John 3:24

BIBLE

The Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the written revelation of God's character and saving purposes for humanity and for all creation.¹² As God's revelation, the entire Bible is true and trustworthy, and is the final and absolute authority for belief and conduct.¹³ The Holy Spirit who inspired the Bible enables its interpretation and application.¹⁴

CREATION

God created and sustains the heavens and the earth,¹⁵ which display God's glory. Formed in the image of God, both male and female, humankind is entrusted with the care of God's creation as faithful stewards.¹⁶ As a result of human rebellion, sin and death entered the world, distorting the image of God and all of God's good creation.¹⁷

Angels were created as supernatural beings to worship and serve God.¹⁸ Along with Satan, some angels chose to rebel and oppose the purposes of God.¹⁹ Christ gives believers victory over Satan and these demons.²⁰

SALVATION

Salvation is available to all people by the loving, redemptive act of the triune God.²¹ Through obedience to the Father,²² Christ gave himself as a ransom.²³ Christ, who had no sin, became sin for us offering himself and shedding his blood on the cross so that in him we might become right with God.²⁴ The life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ²⁵ provide the way of salvation for those who, by God's grace, repent from their sin and confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.²⁶

Salvation means to receive the Spirit, to be forgiven, reconciled with God and others, born again, and liberated from sin and darkness, transferring the believer into God's kingdom.²⁷ Our experience of liberation includes healing — whether spiritual, physical, emotional, or mental — as a foretaste of our future, complete restoration.²⁸ Those who remain in Christ and do not turn away are assured of salvation on judgement day by the indwelling Holy Spirit,²⁹ who sanctifies and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.³⁰

SPIRIT BAPTISM

On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus poured out the promised Holy Spirit on the church.³¹ As his return draws near, Jesus continues to baptize in the Holy Spirit those who are believers.³² This empowers them to continue his work of proclaiming with speech and action the good news of the arrival and coming of the kingdom of God.³³ This experience is available for everyone, male and female, of every age, status,³⁴ and ethnicity.³⁵

The sign of speaking in tongues indicates that believers have been baptized with the Holy Spirit³⁶ and signifies the nature of Spirit baptism as empowering our communication, to be his witnesses with speech and action as we continue to pray in the Spirit.³⁷

¹² Psa 119; John 20:30-31; Rom 15:4

¹³ 2Tim 3:16-17; Heb 4:12

¹⁴ 2Pet 1:20-21; John 16:13; 1 Cor 2:12-13

¹⁵ Gen 1:1; Col 1:15-17

¹⁶ Gen 1:26-27

¹⁷ Rom 5:12; 8:20-22

¹⁸ Heb 1:14; Psa 103:20

¹⁹ Rev 12:7-9

²⁰ Acts 10:38; Eph 6:10-13

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- ²¹ John 3:16; Gal 4:4-7; Titus 2:11-14
²² John 8:28-29; Phil 2:8; Heb 7:24-28
²³ Mark 10:45; 1Tim 2:6
²⁴ 2 Cor 5:21; 1John 3:16
²⁵ Rom 4:22-25; 5:19; 6:4-5; Heb 7:24-28
²⁶ Rom 10:9; 1John 1:9; Acts 3:19; 4:12
²⁷ Eph 2:13-16; Col 1:13-14, 19-20; 1Pet 1:3
²⁸ Isa 53:4-5; 1Pet 2:24; Psa 147:3; Rom 8:23
²⁹ Eph 1:13-14; 1John 4:13; Heb 6:5-6; Phil 3:12-14
³⁰ 1Thess 4:3-4; 1Cor 6:11; Rom 12:1-2; 1Pet 1:2
³¹ Luke 24:49; Acts 2:33
³² Acts 2:38-39; 8:14-17; 19:1-6
³³ Luke 4:18-19, 43; Acts 1:8
³⁴ Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18, 39
³⁵ Acts 10:45-46
³⁶ Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6
³⁷ Acts 1:8; 2:11-43; 4:31; Rom 15:19; 1Cor 14:15

THE CHURCH

Jesus Christ is the head of the church.³⁸ All who are united with Christ are joined by the Spirit to his body.³⁹ Each local church is an expression of the universal church whose role is to participate in the mission of God to restore all things.⁴⁰

Central to the church is the shared experience of the transforming presence of God.⁴¹ The church responds with worship, prayer, proclamation, discipleship, and fellowship,⁴² including the practices of water baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism by immersion symbolizes the believer's identification with Christ in his death and resurrection.⁴³ The Lord's Supper symbolizes Christ's body and blood, and our communion as believers. Shared together, it proclaims his death in anticipation of his return.⁴⁴

The Spirit gives all gifts to the church to minister to others in love for the purpose of bearing witness to Christ and for the building up of the church.⁴⁵ The Spirit also empowers leaders, both female and male, to equip the church to fulfil its mission and purposes.⁴⁶

RESTORATION

Our great hope is for the imminent return of Christ in the air to receive his own, both the living who will be transformed, and the dead in Christ who will be resurrected bodily.⁴⁷ Christ will complete at his second coming the restoration begun when he initiated God's kingdom at his first coming.⁴⁸ Christ will liberate creation from the curse, fulfill God's covenant to Israel, and defeat all powers that oppose God.⁴⁹ Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.⁵⁰

Ultimately, God will judge the living and the dead.⁵¹ Such judgement is God's gracious answer to humanity's cry for justice to prevail throughout the earth and is consistent with God's character as loving, holy, and just.⁵² The unredeemed will go away into eternal punishment, but the redeemed into eternal life.⁵³ The redeemed will enjoy the presence of God where there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain.⁵⁴ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!⁵⁵

³⁸ Col 1:18; Matt 16:18

³⁹ 1Cor 12:12-14

⁴⁰ Acts 1:8; Matt 28:18-20; 2Cor 3:17-18

⁴¹ Acts 2:42-43; 1Cor 12:7; Matt 18:20; 2Cor 3:17-18

⁴² 1Pet 2:9-10; Col 4:2-6; Acts 2:42

⁴³ Rom 6:3-8; Matt 28:19

⁴⁴ Matt 26:26-29; 1Cor 11:23-26

⁴⁵ Acts 8:5-7; 1Cor 12:4-11; 14:12; Heb 2:3-4

⁴⁶ Eph 4:11-16; Matt 20:25-28; Acts 2:17-18; 6:2-4; Rom 16:7

⁴⁷ 1Thess 4:14-17; 5:1-2

⁴⁸ Matt 13:24-41; Rev 11:15-17; Acts 1:6-7; 3:20-21; Rom 11:25-27

⁴⁹ Rom 8:19-21; 1Cor 15:20-26

⁵⁰ Phil 2:10-11; Isa 45:23

⁵¹ Acts 10:42; 1Pet 4:5

⁵² Mal 2:17-3:1; Rev 6:9-11

⁵³ Matt 25:46; Dan 12:1-2

⁵⁴ Isa 25:8-12; Rev 21:3-4

⁵⁵ Rev 22:20

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 relationship⁵⁶ through a marriage ceremony that is recognized by the church and legally sanctioned by the state.

Marriage establishes a "one-flesh" relationship⁵⁷ 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.⁵⁸ It provides the biblical context for the procreation of children.

Marriage is to be an exclusive relationship that is maintained in purity.⁵⁹ 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.⁶⁰

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.⁶¹ 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.⁶²

The Bible holds family life as a position of trust and responsibility. The home is a stabilizing force in society, a place of nurture, counsel, and safety for children.⁶³

Marriage can only be broken by *porneia*, which is understood as marital unfaithfulness⁶⁴ 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.⁶⁵

⁵⁶ Gen 2:24; Matt 19:6

⁵⁷ Matt 19:5; Mal 2:15

⁵⁸ Gen 2:24; Matt 19:6

⁵⁹ Eph 5:3; 26-27

⁶⁰ Eph 5:25; 31-32

⁶¹ 2Cor 6:1, 14-15

⁶² 1Cor 7:12-14; 16

⁶³ Eph 6:4

⁶⁴ Matt 5:32; 19:9

⁶⁵ Eph 4:32

6.2 DIVORCE

We believe that divorce is not God's intention. It is God's concession to the "hardness of men's hearts."⁶⁶

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 restricts the idea of divorce, in the sense of dissolution of marriage, to reasons specified in Scripture.

The weight of the biblical record is negative and the explicit statement is made, "God hates divorce."⁶⁷ 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, 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.

6.4 GENDER

We believe in the biblical teaching of God's original and ongoing design for humanity as two distinct sexes, male and female, determined by genetics. The basis and the intent for this is the conviction that the matter of human sexuality and gender is fundamental to biblical anthropology, not merely biblical morality. Due to human sin and brokenness, our experience of our sex and gender is not always that which God the Creator originally designed. In light of this foundational understanding of creation, fall, and redemption, we will avoid any behaviour or alignment with identity that contradicts the biblical teaching. We do not affirm the resolution of tension between one's biological sex and one's experience of gender by the adoption of an identity contradictory with one's birth sex.

6.5 TITHING

Tithing was divinely instituted by God under the old covenant and was compulsory upon the people who worshiped God.⁶⁸ Under the new covenant we are not bound by arbitrary laws; but the principles of right and wrong, as expressed by the law, are fulfilled in the believer's life through grace. Grace should produce as much as or more than law demanded. Regular systematic giving is clearly taught in the New Testament. It is known as the grace of giving.⁶⁹ The gauge or rule of this systematic giving is defined in the Old Testament, known as the law of tithing. All Christians should conscientiously and systematically tithe their income to God.

⁶⁶ Matt 19:8

⁶⁷ Mal 2:16

⁶⁸ Lev 27:30-32; Mal 3:10

⁶⁹ 2Cor 9:6-15