

# Summary of Revisions to the Proposed Constitution & Bylaws

March 10, 2021

On March 6 we held a workshop to discuss the proposed Constitution and Bylaws. During that workshop and subsequent communication, we received feedback for some changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. The revised version has the date "March 10, 2021" in the lower left corner of each page.

As a result of these changes, our resolution has changed to:

Special Resolution: Be it resolved that MCA approve in principle the proposed changes to the MCA Constitution and Bylaws as found in the document titled "MCA Constitution and Bylaws for Approval - Revised March 10 2021" for submission to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

The following is a summary of the changes made:

1. In the Interpretation Section, definition n, "Mennonite Church Alberta Executive", the words "and other Directors" was added. This is to be consistent with the room for adding more directors to the executive.
2. In the Interpretation Section, in the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph after the definitions, we removed the clause regarding genders. We have endeavored to be inclusive throughout the document and thus thought we could remove this clause. It was "words importing the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter genders"

Changes to the Constitution:

3. In Section 2.1, the first 2 sentences were combined into one sentence.
4. In Section 3.2.1 "Spirit" was capitalized
5. In Section 3.2.4, "churches" was changed to "congregations", and the following was added, "with affiliated organizations and with other faith traditions"
6. In Section 3.2.6, "Provide" was capitalized
7. In Section 4.2, "Regions" was changed to "Regional Churches"

Changes to the Bylaws:

8. Clause 1.6 was added, and subsequent clauses were increased in number. The added clause reads: "The right and privileges of Member congregations may be limited if they are not in good standing. These limitations will be enacted by an ordinary resolution."
9. Clause 2.3 was changed to remove reference to Robert's Rules of Order. There have been some instances in congregations where Roberts Rules were not viewed as the best format for making a decision, and it was questioned whether they should be written into Bylaws that don't change very often. The new clause gives the Executive the task with choosing the rules of order for Delegate Meetings. This will likely be a policy of MCA and may indeed be Robert's Rules of Order.
10. Clause 2.5.3 was added. It was noted that last year we changed our Delegate Meeting with 2 weeks notice and we wanted to provide flexibility in the event of extenuating circumstances.

11. Clause 2.13 was removed. It read, "A Delegate must be a member of a Member Congregation". This was a new clause, and it was discussed that some congregations may wish to send delegates that are not members.
12. The title of Article 6 was discussed. It is changed from "Congregational Accountability" to "Conflict Resolution". Through the discussion we found that Congregational Accountability is a bigger task than Conflict Resolution, and that this Article is more focused on resolving conflict. Congregational Accountability is more of a membership issue and would be dealt with under the Membership Article. If during that process conflict arises, Article 6 may be used.
13. In Section 6.1.1 the following was added to the end of the clause, "and/or the MCA Executive"
14. Section 6.1.3.1 was indented by mistake and has been re-numbered as 6.1.4. It applies to all of 3.1, not just 6.1.3.
15. Section 6.1.5 was added. It reads "Any of the above steps towards resolution may involve outside expertise if necessary". This reinforces the ability to ask for help from outside sources if needed.
16. In Section 7.6, "MCA Congregations" was changed to "Delegates" to maintain language consistency. Also, the words "strive to" were added, as it was pointed out that it has happened that candidates for two vacant Executive positions were unable to be found prior to an Annual Delegate Meeting.
17. In Section 7.25.3, "(if a necessary qualification of appointment)" was removed. This is a requirement stated elsewhere, and was a leftover note that should have been removed.
18. In Section 7.31, in the last sentence, the words "called by" were added to fix the grammar of the sentence.
19. In Section 10.9.1, we change the requirement from "has not previously served on the MCA Finance Committee" to "has not served on the MCA Finance Committee in the previous 3 years". Former Finance Committee members may be ideal candidates to complete the audit.