

2021



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLIES

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Connecting to Advance God's Kingdom

NOTICE OF SPECIAL BUSINESS FCA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

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Item #7: Waiving Requirement of Public Accountant

Intention

According to the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*, which the FCA is governed by, we are required to appoint a public accountant to conduct a review engagement of our financial statements. Although review engagements are fine and can be helpful, they are more costly than our current preferred method of a compilation (aka Notice to Reader) and at this point deemed unnecessary by the Board. However, in order to be able to continue using our Notice to Reader reporting method, the organization is required waive the appointment of a public accountant by unanimous resolution of the members. This resolution must be passed annually and this current one applies only to the 2021 fiscal year. Should this resolution fail to pass unanimously, an alternative resolution appointing the Dart Bryan LLP accounting firm as our public accountant in order to conduct a review engagement for 2021 will immediately be proposed.

Proposed Resolution

**Whereas, the FCA already uses an accountant to prepare annual financial statements; and
Whereas, the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* allows the FCA to continue using a
Notice to Reader; and**

**Whereas, a resolution passed unanimously waiving the appointment of a public
accountant is necessary to continue using a Notice to Reader;**

Therefore, be it

***Resolved, That the appointment of a public accountant for the FCA is hereby waived until
the close of the next annual members meeting or until a public accountant is
appointed.***

Item #8: Constitutional Document

· Proposed Constitutional Section to Constating Documents

Intention

When the handbook was revised, it became evident that we needed to distinguish the policies and procedures (i.e. Handbook) from our constitution and bylaws. Throughout the years, various constitutional elements have been adopted by the Fellowship, yet some of them presently have not found any official landing spot for the Fellowship.

At the Annual Business Meeting in 2020, there was concern expressed about possible implications of adopting our Statement of Ethics as part of our bylaws. This led to further research regarding elements of faith (such as our Statement of Common Beliefs and our Statement of Ethics) being included in our constating documents (i.e. official legal documents). After further research, the FCA Elders recommend that the membership adopt the motion that includes these elements as our official constitutional document. This will be added prior to the bylaws to form our Constitution and Bylaws document.

The reasons the Board recommends this is as follows:

- Communication with lawyer Adam Aptowitzer from Drache Aptowitzer LLP and accountant Curtis Towns, CPA, CMA, from the Canadian Centre for Christian Charities indicated no concerns for organizations that include these elements in their official legal documents.
- Although recognizing it is not *required* to include these elements, Mr. Towns also indicated, “Having the statement of faith in the bylaws not only makes it clear to those desiring to be members what the requirements are, but it also is part of the overall picture of demonstrating the religious nature and beliefs upheld by the organization. This can be important in a legal sense.” Mr. Aptowitzer also mentioned that having these elements in the official documents does provide an underlying spirit of intention that can be an important factor should there be a need for a court to interpret the legal documents.
- To create greater clarity on membership, any membership requirements should be clearly outlined in the constating documents (i.e. official documents of the organization). The Charities Handbook from the CCCC, in Chapter 1, specifically states, “To create more certainty, religious charities should consider including in their bylaws a requirement that members agree and adhere to the organization’s Statement of Faith (which would also be set out in the bylaws).”
- Inclusion of these elements in our constating documents ensures that it is the membership that retains the authority to make any changes.
- There is significant precedent among churches and Christian organizations for inclusion of documents of faith such as statements of faith in constating documents. The ACOP has theirs in their Articles, the POAC in their constitution, ELCIC in their constitution, Mennonite Brethren in their bylaws (appendix), the Mennonite Church Canada in their bylaws, the C&MA (Pacific District) as well as Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec both require each member church to include it in their constitution, and many individual churches include it in their constating documents as well.

Proposed Resolution

Whereas, the constitutional elements are foundational statements of the FCA; and
Whereas, all elements other than the *Preamble* have previously been approved by the membership; and
Whereas, it is recommended by various professional resources to include these elements in our constating documents; and
Whereas, an official Constitution ensures the right of the membership to make any alterations;
Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Constitution be added to the constating documents of the Fellowship of Christian Assemblies of Canada immediately preceding the Bylaws; and

Resolved, That the Statement of Common Beliefs be removed from the Bylaws as a result of its inclusion in the Constitution.

Constitution of the Fellowship of Christian Assemblies of Canada

PREAMBLE

Recognizing the Scriptural charge given to the Church to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and, recognizing the critical role of cooperative and accountable fellowship among the Church:

- We affirm that we are a fellowship of like-minded, local, self-governing Christian assemblies as well as ministers who endeavour to be united in Spirit as we cooperate in this call.
- We affirm our distinctive identity while also affirming our identification with:
 - The global Fellowship of Christian Assemblies family
 - Our historical roots within the Pentecostal movement
 - The worldwide Evangelical church
- We affirm our call to work in the spirit of love and unity with all true believers in our common ministry within the Kingdom of God.

It is with this foundation that we affirm this constitution and bylaws.

ARTICLE 1 NAME

The name shall be the *Fellowship of Christian Assemblies of Canada*.

ARTICLE 2 PURPOSES

1. To advance religion by conducting public worship and by preaching and advancing the teachings of the Christian faith;
2. To advance religion by establishing, maintaining, and supporting evangelism, missions, and missionaries to propagate the Christian faith;
3. To advance religion by establishing, maintaining, and supporting Christian places of worship;
4. To advance religion by promoting and facilitating fellowship among churches and Christians of like faith;

5. To advance religion by producing, publishing, distributing, and selling Christian literature;
6. To advance religion and education by establishing, maintaining, conducting, and supporting schools and programs of instruction based on Christian teachings;
7. To advance religion and education by providing scholarships based on qualifying criteria to allow candidates to attend post-secondary Christian education;
8. To relieve poverty by providing financial assistance based on qualifying criteria to allow candidates to attend post-secondary Christian education;
9. To relieve poverty by providing for education, skills training, the basic necessities of life, and other humanitarian needs in accordance with the tenets of Christianity; and
10. To assist with the efficiency and/or effectiveness of the carrying out of the charitable purposes and activities of other affiliated Christian charities by facilitating, administering, advising, or otherwise assisting in charitable and administrative areas.

ARTICLE 3 STATEMENT OF COMMON BELIEFS

We Believe:

- The Bible to be the only inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God (*John 16:13; 2 Timothy 3:15–17, 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Thessalonians 2:13*).
- There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10–11; Matthew 28:18; Luke 3:22; John 14:16*).
- In the deity and humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ (*John 1:1, 14; 20:28–29; Philippians 2:6–11; Isaiah 9:6; Colossians 2:9*),
 - His virgin birth (*Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:34–35; Isaiah 7:14*),
 - His sinless life (*2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26–27; 1 John 3:5; 1 Peter 2:22*),
 - His miracles (*Matthew 4:23; Luke 6:17–19; John 3:2*),
 - His vicarious and atoning death through his shed blood (*Colossians 1:14, 20; Romans 5:8–9; Ephesians 1:7*),
 - His bodily resurrection (*1 Corinthians 15:3–4; Luke 24:4–7, 36–48; Revelation 1:17–18*),
 - His ascension to the right hand of the Father (*Acts 2:33, 5:30–31; 1 Peter 3:22*),
 - His personal return in power and in glory (*Acts 1:11; Philippians 2:9–11; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13–18; John 14:1–3*).
- That justification by faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit are absolutely essential for the salvation of lost and sinful man (*Romans 3:24–25; John 3:3–7; 1 John 5:11–13; Ephesians 2:1–16; Revelation 5:9; Acts 4:23; 1 Corinthians 6:11*).
- That the prime agency for the work of God's kingdom is the Christian local church functioning under the sovereignty of our Lord Jesus Christ to fulfill the Great Commission of preaching the Gospel to make and baptize disciples of all nations. The church has been entrusted with the ordinances of Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper (*Acts 1:6–8; 2:41–47; 16:4–5; Matthew 16:18; 28:18–20; Mark 16:15–16; Luke 24:44–49; John 20:21; Ephesians 1:22–23; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; 12:1–31*).
- In the present ministry of the Holy Spirit which includes: the baptism in the Holy Spirit as an experience distinct from regeneration; his indwelling by which the Christian is enabled to live a godly life; his supernatural gifting and empowering of the church for its work, life, and worship (*Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4–8; 2:1–4; 10:44–46; 1 Corinthians 12:1–31; 14:1–40*).
- In a lifestyle and practice of ethical conduct and integrity consistent with the character of Jesus Christ and biblical standards (*Romans 12:1–2; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10; Galatians 5:19–21; Ephesians 4:13–32; 1 Timothy 3:1–13; Titus 1:5–11; 2:11–13; 3:9; 1 Peter 1:13–16*).

- In the return of Jesus Christ, to consummate his kingdom in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those who are saved unto the resurrection of life, and those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation (*John 5:28–29; Mark 14:62; 2 Thessalonians 1:2–10; Revelation 1:5–7; 20:4–5, 11–12*).
- In the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (*John 17:11, 21–23; Romans 12:4–5; Ephesians 4:11–16*).

ARTICLE 4 STATEMENT OF ETHICS

All that exists emanates from the person and character of God. His nature is the unalterable foundation of creation. Each person in every generation of humanity is tasked with discovering, living, preserving and transmitting the true nature and purpose of life. We also celebrate that in Jesus Christ, God has provided completely for the restoration of every distortion from the original intent of God, small or great, to return us to joy and purpose. The following statements offer clear biblical Christian definitions of fundamental God given truths that are under pressure in our current culture. Our stand is not a matter of opinion but our understanding of what God's intention is for life.

- Human life begins at conception. God's plan for life extends from embryogenesis through adulthood. (Psalm 22:9, 10; 71:6; 139:13, 14; Isaiah 44:2, 24; 46:3, 4; 49:1, 5)
- Abortion constitutes an interruption of God's intention and of the human rights of the person in the womb. It violates God's commandment not to kill and assaults the most vulnerable and defenseless people in our society. (Luke 1:15, 41, 44; Judges 13:5, 7; Jeremiah 1:5; Galatians 1:15, 16; Exodus 20:13: 21:22-25)
- Marriage is the God ordained, legal and spiritual union of one man and one woman (defined genetically) to the exclusion of all others. This covenant union honours God's own nature in its complimentary male and female components. (Genesis 1:27; 2:23, 24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:31, 32; II Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7; 21:2.)
- Every human life is sacrosanct, having a God-given purpose and dignity from the moment of conception until natural death. Therefore, both euthanasia and assisted suicide are inappropriate human interruptions of God's intention and a usurping of His role. (Psalm 139:15-18; Ephesians 2:10; II Timothy 1:9)
- The heart of Christ's Church is to show compassion for the poor, broken, vulnerable, defenseless, and helpless from every race, colour and gender. (Psalm 68:5, 6; Isaiah 1:17; James 1:27; John 1:14; Ephesians 4:29-32)

In these essentials, let there be unity. In non-essentials, let there be liberty. And in all things, let there be charity.

ARTICLE 5 VALUES

- The authority of the Scriptures
- The leading and empowerment of the Holy Spirit
- Healthy relationships
- Inter-church cooperation
- Local church self-government

- Intergenerational and multi-ethnic communities

ARTICLE 6 AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the constitution may be made at any regularly called annual business meeting, or duly called special meeting, provided the proposed amendment shall have been submitted 90 days prior thereto, in writing, through the Secretary of the Board, to the Board. Notice to the membership will be provided no later than 30 days prior to the meeting. Amendments are only effective on the confirmation of the membership by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the members who voted at a meeting duly called for the purpose of considering the proposed amendment.

Any amendments to the Name or Purpose(s) of the corporation will be treated as amendments to both the Constitution and the Articles of the corporation as registered with Corporations Canada.