

Background for Proposed Amendments

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“Tier 1” items are thought to be substantive. “Tier 2” items are thought to be non-substantive.

Item 0 – Territory

The current text says that the southeastern part of Ontario, Canada is part of our territory. Our Superintendent and the Superintendent in Canada have confirmed that both are in favor of repatriation.

Technically, this change is outside the scope of the Constitution and Bylaws. Changing the territory is done by the Executive Board of the ECC, not in these documents. However, it seems likely that this change will occur by the time the proposed Constitution and Bylaws is in effect since both Conferences are amenable and since the earliest the new documents will take effect is April, 2024.

So that the proposed document is not outdated at the outset, we are proposing to anticipate the change.

Item 1 – Statement of Purpose

The current text does not express what we do and why we do it. We propose adapting the corresponding section from another conference.

Item 2 – Sub Organizations

The current documents describe a structure of Permanent Commissions, Standing Commissions, and Special Commissions. The different types of commissions have different rules for number of members, terms and term limits, working rules or rules of order, etc., some have budgets and annual reports. The Executive Board, as the agent of the Annual Meeting, was to establish and govern “particular ministries” to accomplish the mission of the GLC. From the context, it seems the vehicle for governing these ministries were commissions.

Rather than use commissions, we have found it more efficient and effective to hire staff people, each with a specific mission focus. We currently have only one commission, the Nominating Commission. In a later section, we will discuss the proposal for the Nominating Commission to become the Nominating Committee.

The current documents provide a list of our current “Conference Entities” which includes our two summer camps, Ministerial Association, Women Ministries, and Spiritual Directors Network.

We are proposing to define four types of “Entities”: Associations, Institutions, Ministries, and Commissions in place of the current structure of commissions and entities.

(Continued)

Here is a summary of the four types of Entities:

	Association	Institution	Ministry	Commission
Description	Voluntary group to advance a specific mission.	Organization with significant day-to-day operations and paid staff.	Voluntary group to advance a specific mission.	Group organized to study and make recommendations on specific assigned topic
How Established	Recognized by Annual Meeting	Acquired or established	Established by Executive Board or Annual Meeting	Established by Executive Board or Annual Meeting
Duration	Continuing	Continuing	Short Term	Short Term
Budget and Financial Reports?	Yes	Yes	No	No
Documents	Standing rules of order	Legal formation documents Standing rules of order	No	No
Current List	GLC Ministerial Assoc GLC Women's Ministries GLC Spiritual Directors Network	Camp Mission Meadows LLC Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp	None	None

There is a myriad of places in the Constitution and Bylaws that need to be changed because of changing from the current sub organization structure to the new one. We are proposing to delete Constitution - Article IX – Ministries and renumber the articles after it. We are also proposing to delete Bylaws – Article V – Conference Ministries and renumber the articles after it.

Most of the myriad of changes that cascade from changing the sub organization structure are minor wording changes to either properly refer to the sub organizations or to avoid confusion. These minor wording changes are discussed in “Item 23 – Cascade Effects of Item 2 – Sub Organizations”.

Item 3 – Nominations for Elected Executive Board positions

In the current document, the Nominating Commission has the responsibility to prepare the ballot for the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Commission has an elected Executive Board member as its chair with two additional lay members and two additional clergy members.

We propose that a new standing administrative committee, the Nominating Committee will have the responsibility to prepare the ballot. The Nominating Committee will recommend the ballot to the Executive Board who submits a ballot to the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee has at least 3 elected Executive Board members and others as may be assigned by the Executive Board.

The requirements for the ballot and the process for nominations from the floor remain unchanged.

We added the Nominating Committee to the section on “standing administrative committees” (Bylaws - Article IV Section 4.5.d). And we took the description of the ballot, nominations from the floor, and voting and put them into a new section in the Bylaws – Article IV Section 4.2.b.

Item 4 – Definition of Quorum for Annual Meeting

The current text says one-third of delegates is enough to fulfill quorum requirements. We think this is too low. Practically speaking, we have high participation in the regular session of the Annual Meeting. However, we could possibly encounter low participation if there were a special session.

Item 5 – Virtual and Hybrid Annual Meetings

In the last few years, meetings that have all virtual participants or a mix of virtual and in-person participants have become more frequent. We propose to provide for these new modes. These modes bring up questions regarding written ballots, voice votes, and call into question wording like “a majority of delegates present and voting”.

Per Robert’s Rules of Order, written ballots are used when there is concern about participants being able to vote their preference without fear. So, confidentiality is a concern.

We have in many locations modified text that referred to delegates as “present and voting”.

In a few places the current text refers to delegates being given something when they arrived at the Annual Meeting. We modified this to say at the beginning of the Annual Meeting.

Item 6 – Virtual and Hybrid Executive Board Meetings

Allowing the Executive Board to have virtual or hybrid meetings.

Item 7 – Executive Board Votes via Email

There have been several instances in the past few years where the GLC Executive Board has voted on a topic via email. The proposed amendment is intended to strengthen the process.

Item 8 – Indemnification and Insurance

The proposed amendment is more accurate and complete than the current language.

Item 9 – Superintendent Suspension, Restoration, and Removal

The current text could be interpreted as saying that the matter of a suspended Superintendent could only be considered by the Annual Meeting at one of its regular sessions. In that case, a situation involving a suspended Superintendent could linger for almost a year with no way to resolve it. Our proposed revision makes it clear that the Executive Board can call a special session of the Annual Meeting to resolve the issue.

We are proposing that the Annual Meeting be able to resolve a suspension or remove a Superintendent by a majority vote of votes cast. The current document says the vote must be a “majority vote”. What if the number of people voting for a given action was a majority of the votes cast but not a majority of those eligible to vote. Not specifying that the majority is of the votes cast could lead to ambiguity. If we ever get to the point where we are taking such a vote in such a horrible situation, then we should be able to resolve the issue with no ambiguity.

Item 10 – Referring to ECC Processes and Requirements

There are places in the GLC documents where the processes and requirements are really those of the ECC. We wanted to include those processes and requirements in the GLC document but also alert people that the processes and requirements given may not be in effect if the ECC had changed.

Item 11 – Timing of the Start of a New Superintendent

We noticed that two sections of the Bylaws seemed to be inconsistent with each other. Bylaws Article III Section 3.1.e says the Executive Board sets the date the new Superintendent assumes office. The next section, Section 3.1.f says the new Superintendent assumes office on September 1st. The resolution of this inconsistency also affects the length of time an Associate Superintendent can serve as Acting Superintendent.

Item 12 – Reference to Board of Church Growth and Evangelism

Since the Board of Church Growth and Evangelism no longer exists, we need to update the reference.

Item 13 – Associate Superintendent

We have had Associate Superintendents in the past but do not currently have any. We decided to retain the options of have zero, one, or more Associate Superintendents. In the current text there is some overlap between the Chair and any Associate Superintendents regarding who fills in for the Superintendent. In the current text it says the Executive Board shall name an Associate Superintendent to be Acting Superintendent. We are proposing that the Executive Board may name an Associate Superintendent to be Acting Superintendent.

Item 14 – Annual Meeting as a Group of People and as an Event

The term “Annual Meeting” is defined in Constitution Article VII as a group (“convention”) of people but the term is also used to refer to a meeting of that group of people. Constitution Article VII describes the typical meeting as the regular session of the Annual Meeting and also provides for special sessions of the Annual Meeting.

In our proposal when the term “Annual Meeting” is used by itself, it means the group of people. The terms “regular session of the Annual Meeting” and “special session of the Annual Meeting” are used to refer to the meetings of that group of people.

One effect of making this distinction is that instead of being “sent” to the Annual Meeting, a person is “named” to the Annual Meeting (group of people).

In the current text, when “Annual Meeting” was used to refer to an event, the assumption was the event was the regular meeting. When changing to specify “regular session” or “special session” there are instances where the proposal became more restricted than the current text and instances where the proposal became more permissive.

Item 15 – “Administrative Division” of the ECC

This section describes the GLC as an administrative division of the denomination. However, Constitution – Article III Section 3.1 describes the GLC as a separately incorporated association of ECC congregations. These descriptions seem inconsistent. Also, as an administrative division of the ECC, the liability for any errors or malfeasance at the GLC level could flow up to the denominational level. We propose deleting the second paragraph of this Article.

Item 16 – Executive Session for Discussion of Superintendent Compensation

This section discusses when the Executive Board may exclude the Superintendent from its meeting. The current text does not have discussing the Superintendent’s compensation as a reason in this section. That reason is included in Bylaws Article IV Section 4.5 as a reason the Executive Board shall exclude all ex officio members and advisors. Technically the Superintendent is an ex officio member. But amending this section makes it clearer.

Item 17 – Standing Administrative Committee Number of Members

The current text specification on the number of members on its standing administrative committees (Finance, Personnel, and Nominating) is rigid. The proposal is to give more flexibility.

Item 18– Number of Financial Reviewers or Auditors

The current text refers to “auditors” in one location. In both locations the current text seems to say that more than one individual will be involved. The term “audit” or “auditor” implies a much more rigorous, and expensive, examination than is intended or practical. And we think that the review of financial accounts can be accomplished by one individual if the Executive Board so desires.

Item 19 – “Executive” Staff

This section involves the duties of the Personnel Committee. The current text seems to limit the scope of the committee’s review of performance and compensation to that of the Superintendent and other executive staff. The term “executive staff” is not defined. The Personnel Committee’s scope includes all staff. They will carry out their performance and compensation review functions directly only on the Superintendent. The Committee’s review of performance and compensation, and the framing of their recommendations to the Executive Board, for the other staff will be based primarily (but not exclusively) on their evaluation of the recommendations from the Superintendent and the other supervisory staff.

Item 20 – Moderator vs. Chair

This section deals with delegates seeking to add items onto the agenda for the regular session of the Annual Meeting. The current text says the request goes to the “moderator”. Moderator is not defined.

Item 21 – Search Committee vs. Nominating Committee

From the context, it appears the current text should say “Search Committee” instead of “Nominating Committee” in this location.

Item 22 – Correct Documents for Type of Corporate Structure

We have two camps (Institutions). One is incorporated and the other is an LLC. The legal documents for these have different sets of names and both sets of names need to be listed.

Item 23 – Cascade Effects of Item 2 - Sub Organizations

There are many sections of text that needed to be revised in order to avoid inconsistencies with the structure defined in Item 2 – Sub Organizations. Most of the myriad of changes that cascade from changing the sub organization structure are minor wording changes to either properly refer to the sub organizations or to avoid confusion. We avoided using the term “entities” unless referring to the ones defined in Item 2. The terms “commission’ and “corporation” were replaced because they are not defined. And we changed wording to only require documents, budgets, or financial reports from those types of Entities that should have them.

Item 24 – Cascade Effects of Item 5 - Virtual / Hybrid Annual Meetings

When delegates are either all participating electronically or some are in person and others are participating electronically, terms like “present and voting” or “upon arrival” are ambiguous and problematic.