



# **CHURCH OF GOD IN CANADA**

**Canadian National Charter  
as Ratified at the  
8<sup>th</sup> Canadian National Assembly**



# BYLAWS

## A. Article 1

**Name of Church** – The official name is the Church of God in Canada. The Church of God in Canada is a registered non-profit charity with Revenue Canada.

**Affiliation** – The Church of God in Canada is affiliated with the Church of God International Offices, Cleveland, Tennessee, USA, and is subject to the policies and procedures outlined in the Church of God General Assembly *Minutes*.

## B. Article 2

**Officer** – The executive officer of the Church of God in Canada shall be the International Executive Committee liaison to Canada or his Designee. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)

### **Governing Bodies**

**General Assembly** – The General Assembly of the Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee, USA) is that organized body with full power and authority to designate the teaching, government, principles, and practices of all the local churches composing said Assembly.

**National Assembly** – The Canadian National Assembly shall consist of all members and ministers of the Church of God in Canada 16 years of age and above. Members and ministers present and registered at the National Assembly shall comprise its voting constituency. The National Assembly shall meet biennially (off Assembly years) at a time and place determined by the National Executive Council.

**National Council** – The National Council shall consist of:

(a) All credentialed ministers who reside in Canada and who report consistently to one of the Regional Offices, and who are registered attendants at the National Assembly, and

(b) One registered lay delegate attending the National Assembly who has been elected by and from each local church in Canada. To qualify, the delegate (male or female) must meet the same qualifications (except gender) as set down by the General Assembly for a member of the Church and Pastor's Council.

The non-delegate laity shall be privileged to sit in the Canadian National Council sessions without voting privileges.

**National Executive Council** – The Canadian National Executive Council shall be comprised of the International Executive Committee liaison or his designee, who shall serve as chairman, and 6 members (2 from each region) elected by their

respective regions and the regional overseers. The elected members shall serve for two years and may succeed themselves twice. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)

**C. Article 3**

**Amendment** – The power to alter, amend, or repeal these bylaws shall be vested in the National Assembly and exercised only by a two-thirds vote of the National Assembly.

**Previous Notice**

In order to amend, alter or repeal these bylaws, previous notice will be considered fulfilled if the following guidelines to notify the constituency are observed:

Mail to ministers and elected lay delegates whose addresses are on record at the Canadian National Offices, the notice and copies of the proposed change(s) to the bylaws of the Church of God in Canada not later than 90 days prior to the opening of the Canadian National Assembly. Pastors should make this notice available by public announcement and/or posting to their congregation.

The proposed change(s) may be amended, but cannot be amended beyond the scope of the notice. Any change of the bylaws approved by the Canadian National Assembly will go into effect immediately upon its adoption, unless the motion to adopt specifies another time for its becoming effective.

# **POLITY**

## **Canadian National Assembly**

### **1. Definition**

The Canadian National Assembly is that organized body with the power and authority to act upon recommendations presented to it by the Canadian national council which are in harmony with the *Minutes* of the General Assembly of the Church of God with international offices in Cleveland, Tennessee, USA.

### **2. Members**

The Canadian National Assembly is composed of all members and ministers of the Church of God in Canada 16 years of age and above. Members and ministers of the Church of God in Canada present and registered at the Canadian National Assembly shall comprise its voting constituency.

### **3. Meeting**

The Canadian National Assembly shall meet biennially (non-Assembly years) at a time and location set by the Canadian National Executive Council to consider any recommendations from the Canadian national council.

### **4. Parliamentary Procedure**

*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall serve as the official guide for the business of the Canadian National Assembly in all matters to which they are applicable.

# **Canadian National Council**

## **1. Selection**

The National Council shall consist of all

(a) All credentialed ministers who reside in Canada and who report consistently to one of the Regional Offices, and who are registered attendants at the National Assembly, and

(b) One registered lay delegate attending the National Assembly who has been elected by and from each local church in Canada. To qualify, the delegate (male or female) must meet the same qualifications (except gender) as set down by the General Assembly for a member of the church and Pastor's Council.

The non-delegate laity shall be privileged to sit in the Canadian National Council sessions without voting privileges.

## **2. Duties**

The Canadian National Council shall meet biennially (the year between Assemblies) to consider the agenda prepared by the National Executive Council and prepare such recommendations as are Scriptural and proper in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the church in Canada. Such recommendations are to be presented to the Canadian National Assembly for final disposition.

## **3. Agenda**

The agenda of the Canadian National Council shall be prepared by the Canadian Executive Council and mailed to the ministers and elected lay delegates in the appropriate language at least 60 days prior to the opening of the Canadian National Council.

## **4. Parliamentary Procedure**

*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall serve as the official guide for the business of the Canadian National Council in all matters to which they are applicable.

# **Canadian National Executive Council**

## **1. Selection**

- a. The Canadian National Executive Council shall be comprised of the International Executive Committee liaison or his designee, who shall serve as chairman, and 6 members (2 from each region) elected by their respective regions and the regional overseers. The elected members shall serve for two years and may succeed themselves twice. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)
- b. Elected representatives must be up-to-date on their personal ministerial reports and church reports with the appropriate funds (tithes and missions) sent to the National and Regional Offices at the time of their election and maintain consistency in their reports and funding in order to serve on the National Executive Council. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)
- c. An alternate member shall be selected by each region to replace any vacancies for that region. The alternate shall fulfill the vacancy term of the vacated member. If more than 1 year of the vacated member's term remains, then this shall make a full-term for the alternate. (8<sup>th</sup> A., 2013)

## **2. Duties and Authorities**

1. This council shall consider and act upon any and all matters pertaining to the general interest and welfare of the Church of God in Canada between National Assemblies. At a time set by the International Executive Committee liaison, the said council shall meet and adopt recommendations to be brought to the Canadian National Council. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)
2. The International Executive Committee liaison with the National Executive Council shall have supervision of all national mission monies, surplus tithes, national properties and all funds received and disbursed from the national treasury. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)
3. The National Executive Council shall meet as often as the International Executive Committee liaison deems necessary, but not less than twice a year. The International Executive Committee liaison shall make every effort to schedule the meetings at a time when every region can be represented. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)
4. The International Executive Committee liaison or his designee shall, with the National Executive Council, employ the national administrative assistant and set the salary. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)
5. The National Executive Council shall set the date and location of the biennial National Assembly.
6. The council shall promote a National Church Planting program targeting new areas of Canada in conjunction with the Regional Overseers. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)

## **International Executive Committee Liaison**

### **Duties and Authorities**

1. He, or his designee, shall moderate the National Assembly and the National Council and chair the National Executive Council meetings.
  2. He, or his designee, shall serve as chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Bible College.
  3. He, together with the National Executive Council, shall appoint the Canadian world missions chairman, and the world missions board.
  4. He, together with the Canadian World Missions Board, shall be responsible for Canadian World Missions.
  5. He, or his designee, shall direct the activities and functions of the national office including the following: secretarial staff, accounting, reporting, financial disbursements and national properties.
  6. He shall make recommendations to the International Executive Committee in regard to the appointments of the regional overseers.
  7. He shall be responsible to promote harmony among the regional overseers by planning an appropriate forum to address issues relevant to national unity.
  8. He shall work with the Church of God educational institutions to provide training opportunities for the ministers of Canada.
  9. He shall recommend to the International Executive Committee a person to represent Canadian interests on the Church of God International Council.
- (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)

# **Canadian Regional Overseers**

## **1. Selection**

Regional Overseers shall be appointed by the International Executive Committee, for a two-year term. The International Executive Committee shall design a rating instrument to indicate the Regional Overseer's performance that shall be mailed to the appropriate Canadian ministers in the appropriate language the spring of each Assembly year. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)

## **Qualifications**

The office of Regional Overseer is an honored and vital position in the Church of God (Acts 20:28). It is therefore fitting that the person who serves in this capacity be a person of strong spiritual authority and able to demonstrate capable leadership qualities, such as:

1. The ability to oversee persons as well as programs (Acts 20:28).
2. An attitude of submission to those over him in the Lord (Hebrews 13:7).
3. Leadership qualities to motivate and delegate responsibilities for efficient operation (1 Corinthians 16:1; 1 Timothy 1:18,19; 5:1,2).
4. Sensitivity to those whom he serves by exemplifying compassion, trustworthiness, concern, and integrity (Hebrews 6:10; 1 Timothy 1:18, 19; 4:12, 13; 6:12; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:1-3; 6:3-12a).
5. Adaptability to the cultural differences and changing role of church ministry (Acts 6:1-7; 2 Timothy 4:1,2).

## **Accountability**

1. He shall be accountable to those who appoint him and dedicated to those whom he serves (2 Timothy 2:4,5; Luke 16:2).
2. He shall be a model by demonstrating Christ-like attributes in his lifestyle and administration (2 Corinthians 6:3,4a).
3. He shall be diligent in his relationship with his family, his community, his colleagues, and those over him in the Lord, so as not to bring a reproach to his witness and position (1 Timothy 3:2, 4, 5; 1 Corinthians 12:18, 20, 25, 28-30; 1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13; Romans 14:16; James 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:12, 14; 2 Timothy 2:24, 25).
4. He shall stay abreast of the times in terms of administration, finances, office procedures and techniques, and communications.
5. He shall be evaluated periodically by the Executive Committee.



## **2. Term of Office**

The regional overseer's term of office shall be for two years, terminating the Sunday following the close of the General Assembly. He shall be eligible to succeed himself for an additional term(s) if he meets the following criteria:

1. He must receive a minimum of two-thirds of the vote of the ministers in his region. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)
2. The success of his administration must merit consideration for an additional term.
3. The International Executive Committee must believe his reappointment to be in the best interest of the Church of God in his region of Canada.
4. His tenure in office shall not exceed 12 years or six consecutive terms in non-mission regions. He may be eligible for reappointment as regional overseer after serving in some other capacity for at least two years. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)

## **3. Duties and Authorities**

1. Arrange for and assist in conducting a general evangelistic campaign throughout his region.
2. Appoint district overseers, pastors, make changes or fill vacancies in pastorates, when necessary.
3. Approve the setting in order of churches before organization is effective.
4. Approve the selection, purchase, and construction of all church, parsonage, or Sunday school properties, together with the respective district overseers.
5. Officiate at all ordination services in his region, sign credentials of all ministers in his region who have been approved by the general overseer, or return such credentials to the general overseer, giving reasons for not signing.
6. Sign revocation when terminating the ministry of any individual.
7. Discontinue inactive churches; sign a report of same on forms prepared for this use and send to the general overseer.
8. Transfer members of churches which have ceased to exist, to the church most convenient for the member.
9. Appoint any officer in a local church, Family Training Hour, Sunday school, or Women's Ministries, when necessary.
10. Pass on all questionnaires of applicants to the ministry in his region who are considered worthy, and sign such applications, showing his endorsement of the applicant before submitting applications to the general overseer.
11. Decide the bounds of each district in his region.
12. Report the organization of new churches to the general secretary-treasurer on forms prepared for same.

13. Conduct a convention on each district once each year, or group two or more districts for one convention, and at least one regional convention, giving general instructions in doctrine and general interests of the church.
14. Call district or regional ministers' meetings or prayer conferences to arrange for the regional program.
15. Before launching large financial regional projects, have the approval of the International Executive Committee.
16. Where the regional overseer is serving as pastor, or has relatives who are members of the church, or other conditions that would render him incapable of giving a fair trial to an offending member who has been excluded from the church, he has a right to appeal to the general overseer, who shall select two ordained ministers to sit with him to decide whether or not the offending party should have another trial.
17. The regional overseer, with the district overseer, may authorize exhorters to pastor churches, baptize, and receive members into the church, when such authority is necessary or in case of an emergency.
18. Make monthly reports to the secretary general and a copy to the Canadian National Office on forms prepared for such reports. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)
19. Send all monthly regional financial statements and annual audits to the National Office. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)
20. Supply a current status of all ministers in a region to the National Office, a current ministers mailing list, new ministers, those ministers whose license has been revoked, and other pertinent information to the National Office operations, as needed. (6<sup>th</sup> A., 2009)
21. Leave all records pertaining to the regional work, such as minister's reports, church clerk's reports, ledgers, financial records, regional council decisions, or any other record of importance, in the files in the regional office for his successor's information.
22. Live in the region over which he is made overseer.