

# PROPOSED CANADA COVENANT BYLAW AMENDMENTS

(Agenda Item 5.e)

*The necessity of digital meetings the last two years, the grace of our constituents in unforeseen days, and our current bylaws created enough space for us to feel confident in hosting digital meetings. The following changes, to be introduced at the 118th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada, and voted upon at the 119th Annual Meeting next year offer greater clarity to the reality of hosting the Annual Meeting utilizing electronic means.*

Bylaws Article II The Annual General Meeting

Section 2.1. Current Text

2.1 The Leadership Board shall designate the time and place of each Annual General Meeting, which shall be held prior to the ECC Annual General Meeting.

Section 2.1 Proposed Text

The Leadership Board shall designate the time, ~~and place,~~ and medium of each Annual General Meeting, which shall be held prior to the ECC Annual General Meeting.

*Move to add “medium” to the responsibility of the Leadership Board following changes in ECC bylaws allowing staff and Leadership Board to assess the viability and sustainability of the meeting, while having the options to go: virtual, in person or hybrid based on social/government demands or based on fiscal responsibilities going forward.*

Section 2.6.a Current Text

a. Determination. The Leadership Board of the ECCC shall determine when the AGM shall be held in regionalized centres. This decision shall be announced at the AGM prior to the regionalized gathering.

Section 2.6.a Proposed Text

Determination. The Leadership Board of the ECCC shall determine when the AGM shall be held in regionalized centres. ~~This decision shall be announced at the AGM prior to the regionalized gathering.~~

*Move to remove “This decision shall be announced at the AGM prior to the regionalized gathering.”, in order to allow flexibility in the face of unforeseen circumstances or need.*

Section 2.6.b. Current Text

b. Oversight. At least three members of the Leadership Board shall be present at each regionalized site. The gatherings shall be coordinated by the Leadership Board. The President/Superintendent shall be present at each of the sites unless travel between sites is not possible.

Section 2.6.b Suggested Edit

b. Oversight. A member of the Leadership Board shall be present at each regionalized site. The gatherings shall be coordinated by the Leadership Board. ~~ECCC staff will also be distributed between sites. If possible, the President/Superintendent will visit each site.~~

*Move to: change “At least three members” to “A member” to ensure Leadership Board representation at regionalized sites; add “ECCC staff will also be distributed between sites” to ensure staff representation; and change the final clause to “If possible, the President/Superintendent will visit each site” to express intent but acknowledge potential travel limitations.*

Section 2.6.c Current Text

c. Frequency. Regionalized gatherings shall not happen in successive years.

Section 2.6.c Suggested Edit

~~c. Frequency. Regionalized gatherings shall not happen in successive years.~~

*Move to remove section 2.6.c*

Section 2.6.d Current Text

d. Technology. Both audio and video technology must be utilized during times of official voting during regionalized meetings.

Section 2.6.d Suggested Edit

c. Technology. Both audio and video technology must be utilized during times of official voting during regionalized meetings. **Electronic means may be utilized for voting.**

*Move to rename Section 2.6.d "Section 2.6.c" and add "Electronic means may be utilized for voting" in order to facilitate simultaneous voting across regionalized sites. For example, using the voting app that was used in 2020 and 2021.*

***Here is the process by which Bylaw Amendments can be made.***

ARTICLE VII Amendments

Section 7.1. Proposed amendments shall be in general harmony with the ECC and ECCC Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 7.2. Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed in the following ways.

- a. A delegate may introduce a proposed amendment to these Bylaws in writing at an Annual Meeting. Such proposed amendments cannot be acted upon until the next Annual General Meeting.
- b. A member of the Leadership Board may propose an amendment to these Bylaws in writing at least 60 days prior to the scheduled Leadership Board Meeting for action at that Annual Meeting.

Section 7.3. At least thirty days before the Annual General Meeting when final action is to be taken on a proposed amendment to these Bylaws, the secretary or ECCC office shall send a copy of each proposed amendment to each congregation and shall cause the text of each proposed amendment to be published in an official publication of the Conference and/or in any electronic media that the ECCC regularly uses for communication with member congregations and members of the board.

Section 7.4. A proposed amendment shall be adopted upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the delegates present and voting at the Annual Meeting Leadership Board when a quorum is present.