

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

June 30, 2022

**Re: IMPORTANT INFORMATION regarding the new PAOC Statement of Essential Truths, the Revised Local Church Constitution, and the Revised General Constitution and By-laws**

Dear PAOC credential holders, local churches, Bible colleges, and ministry leaders,

A total of 36 general and local church constitutional resolutions were passed at our recent General Conference business sessions on April 21 and May 17 and 18, 2022.

Following each General Conference, a summary of resolutions affecting the Local Church Constitution and By-Laws is provided to assist local assemblies in updating their local constitution. At the 2022 Special Conference held online in April and at our hybrid General Conference, both online and on-site in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in May, the Local Church Constitution was revised, both in terms of its content and format, according to approved resolutions. This summary is available on the Church Portal under "Documents" and is called "Summary of LCC Resolutions." A printed and mailed copy can be provided to you upon request.

For legal purposes, it is essential that Article 5 of the General Constitution and By-laws of the PAOC - the Statement of Essential Truths (SOET) - be regarded in conjunction with Article 6 - Positions and Practices - and that both documents are understood and communicated as integral parts of the greater context, namely the General Constitution and By-laws of the PAOC. That said, please note that the Statement of Essential Truths (Article 5) is our distinct statement when communicating the core theological essential truths that we hold.

As you are aware, the spectre of "legal implications" was raised at the recent General Conference. Recent legal case history has shown that, if there is consistency in governing documents (both in statement and application) among the PAOC International Office and churches and other institutions of the PAOC, to date grace has been granted in the acceptance and approval of our stated positions. In communicating the integrated nature of the documents, we hope to allay any fears that may exist.

**In order to take effect locally, each *self-governing assembly*, at a regularly convened congregational meeting, is required to adopt amendments individually OR adopt the *Local Church Constitution* (approved at the 2022 General Conference) in one single motion.** However, we do ask that you point out to the members the proposed changes.

For this Local Church Constitution to be adopted locally, a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at a duly convened congregational meeting is required.

As provincial legislation may vary from district to district, you are encouraged to review your final version with your district office.

If your church is incorporated, you may wish to review proposed amendments with your legal counsel.

#### **TO ACCESS ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS:**

CLICK on this PAOC website link: [FELLOWSHIP SERVICES - CONSTITUTIONS](#) to view or download the following which are posted publicly:

- **General Constitution and By-laws 2022**
- **Local Church Constitution 2022**
- **Statement of Essential Truths 2022**

To view or download the **Statement of Essential Truths and Positions and Practices (Article 5-SOET, together with Article 6-Positions and Practices of the General Constitution and By-laws 2022)**, click on this link to go to the log-in for the [CREDENTIAL PORTAL](#). Then go to CREDENTIALS, then to the MEMBER FILES section. Note: This document is not posted publicly on paoc.org.

#### **TO ORDER PRINTED DOCUMENTS:**

Should you desire to receive a hard copy of these documents, please contact the PAOC Order Desk at (905) 542-7400 ext. 3223 or email [orderdesk@paoc.org](mailto:orderdesk@paoc.org).

If you have any questions on the Constitutions or credential matters, please feel free to contact your district office.

In His service,

**David Wells**, General Superintendent  
**Ron Davis**, Interim General Secretary Treasurer  
**Murray Cornelius**, Executive Director for Mission Global



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