



Canadian National Charter as Ratified at the 10th Canadian National Assembly



Note: Changes ratified at the 10th Canadian National Assembly highlighted in red.

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~~ Moderator of the Churches of God in Canada appointed by the International Executive Committee of the Church of God. (~~6th 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 ~~quadrennially~~ biennially (off Assembly years) at a time and place determined by the National Executive Council. (9th A., 2015)

Purpose - The purpose of the National Assembly of the Church of God in Canada is to advance the mission, vision, and commitments of the Church of God as stated in the International General Assembly Minutes.

(Note: This is in alignment with the purpose statement of the General Assembly of the Church of God stated in the 2016 Minutes of the Church of God International on page 58.)

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. (6th 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.

D. **Article 4**

Mission Statement

The mission of the Church of God in Canada is to communicate the full gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28: 19, 20), in the Spirit and power of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4, 6, 13-18) (71st A., 2006, p.44).

VISION

Our vision arises from our understanding of what the sovereign God purposes to do for and through His church. The Great Commission remains our mandate from Christ.

The Church of God is to be:

1. A movement committed to the authority of Holy Scripture for faith and direction.
2. A fellowship whose worship brings God's power into the life of the church and extends that power through the lives of believers into the marketplace of life.
3. A body that is directed by the Spirit, fully understanding that baptism in the Holy Spirit is both a personal blessing and an endowment of power for witness and service in fulfilling the Great Commission.
4. A people who hunger for God, experience the presence of God, and stand in awe of His holiness as He changes believers into conformity with Christ.
5. A New Testament church which focuses on the local congregation where the pastor nurtures and leads all members to exercise spiritual gifts in ministry.
6. A church that loves all people and stands opposed to any action or policy that discriminates against any group or individual because of race, color, or nationality.
7. A movement that evidences love and concern for the hurts and loneliness of the unsaved through aggressive evangelistic, discipling, and nurturing ministries.
8. A church that is Christ-centered, people-oriented, and need-sensitive in all its programs and ministries.
9. A movement that promotes policies and ministries which reflect an open, sincere effort to remain relevant to each generation.

COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION

1. PRAYER

We commit ourselves to making prayer the highest priority of the church demonstrated by:

- Every local church becoming a house of prayer for all nations.
- Emphasizing communication with God as the highest privilege and greatest responsibility of every member.
- Modeling by all church leadership of an active and effective prayer life.
- Uniting with other believers in corporate and intercessory prayer.

(Isa. 56:7; Mark 11:17; Rom. 8:26; 1 Cor. 14:14, 15; I Thess. 5:17; I Tim. 2:1-4, 8; James 5:14, 15)

2. PENTECOSTAL WORSHIP

We commit ourselves to gather regularly as the local expression of the Body of Christ to participate in Pentecostal worship that exalts God, engages the heart, mind and soul, and challenges to deeper commitment and discipleship. This commitment will be demonstrated by:

- Assisting local churches in planning and preparing for meaningful, anointed worship.
- Equipping pastors and other worship leaders to lead authentically expressed, spiritually alive worship.
- Modeling varying styles and forms of worship that glorify God and encouraging outreach and service.
- Emphasizing the importance of Biblical stewardship and the centrality of God's Word as elements of worship.

(John 4:24; Psalm 29:2; Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 12:4-11; Isa. 58; Mat. 25:31-46)

3. WORLD EVANGELIZATION

We commit ourselves to intentionally reaching the unconverted, baptizing them in water, and leading them to unite with the church. This commitment will be demonstrated by:

- Viewing all the nations of the world as our mission field.
- Encouraging our local churches to adopt and intercede for an unreached people group. Resource materials will be provided by the World Missions Department.
- Asking all national churches of the Church of God international to adopt and implement measurable steps to evangelize and disciple unreached people groups inside and outside of their own regions (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 15:19-24; Revelation 5:9).
- Encouraging every local church to increase a minimum of 10% per year through conversion growth.
- Cultivating a genuine passion for the lost that will compel members to personally communicate the gospel of Jesus and demonstrate His love to those outside the faith.
- Discipling new believers and passing on our faith to the next generation.
- Practicing life-style evangelism.

(Mat. 9:37-38; Mat. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-18; Acts 1:8; Rom. 10:13-15)

4. CHURCH PLANTING

We commit ourselves to identifying, training and resourcing God-called church planters and to intentionally planting new life-giving churches. This commitment will be demonstrated by:

- Focusing designated resources of the local church, state/regional offices, and the international offices for planting new churches.
- Starting the number of church plants equal to a minimum of 3% of the total number of churches in a state/region/nation annually.

- Developing a certified training program in our Evangelism and Home Missions Department and educational institutions for church planters and home missions.
- Emphasizing the health and viability of new church plants as well as the number of churches planted.
- Affirming the different models of church planting for different situations.
- Recognizing church planting as an apostolic ministry for our day.

(Mat. 16:18; John 4:35; Acts 2:47; 14:23; Eph. 5:25-28)

5. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We commit ourselves to identifying and developing individuals whom God has called and given leadership gifts and challenging them to become servant-leaders. We will demonstrate our commitment by:

- Creating an environment in which men and women with ministry gifts are developed to serve as servant-leaders.
- Equipping, empowering and releasing lay leaders to serve as ministry partners both inside and outside the local church.
- Providing relevant resources and training opportunities for both clergy and laity.
- Encouraging pastors to lead through vision, to communicate the vision to the congregation and to organize the body and each of its ministry groups so the vision can be realized.

(Mark 3:13-15; 2 Tim. 2:2; 2:15; 3:14-17; Eph. 4:11-13)

6. CARE

We commit ourselves to the challenge of being a church that genuinely cares for one another and for those who are lost, hurting and needy. We will demonstrate our commitment by:

- Building loving, caring relationships within families, between members, and within the communities we serve.
- Obeying the Care Commission of Christ in Matthew 25.
- Cultivating compassion and showing mercy to the unloved, the undesirable and the unreached of our society.
- Establishing in each local church some type of outreach ministry that demonstrates our genuine concern and love for the disadvantaged or oppressed.

(Psa. 86:15; Mat. 25; Luke 6:36; Acts 20:28)

7. INTERDEPENDENCE

We commit ourselves to the principle of interdependence, acknowledging our interconnectedness and dependence on all the members of the Body of Christ. We will demonstrate our commitment by:

- Reaching out to others in the Body of Christ for collaboration, resource sharing and learning opportunities.
- Encouraging local churches to build relationships with like-minded and like-hearted churches in their communities to work together to reach the lost.
- Involving clergy in the processes of mentoring, coaching and consulting on the local, state, regional, national and international levels to increase the level of trust and support among ministers.
- Engaging in dialogue and partnership with local, national and international organizations who seek to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ.

(Col. 2:19; 1 Cor. 12:14-31; Gal. 6:1-6)

8. COMMUNICATION

That we commit ourselves to utilizing every available medium and means to effectively maintain open and perpetual communication with our constituency. This commitment will be demonstrated by:

- Understanding that communication is the process of exchanging information, imparting ideas, and sharing the message so it is understood by others.
- Exploring the best media choices available to enable the transforming message of Christ to all mankind and cultural contexts.
- Discovering new ways and means of efficient and effective electronic mediums to maintain continuous connection with our constituency.
- Empowering ministry resources available to the church for immediate response to the needs of the world and the mission engagement of the church.
- Employing every facet of communication to expand the global reach of Christ's message, sustaining open exchange of ministry concepts, encouraging the strengthening and growth of local churches, enlisting and equipping the next generation of leaders, and fulfilling our mission and vision as a movement that is Christ-centered, people-oriented, and need-sensitive in all its ministry endeavors.

9. DISCIPLESHIP

We commit ourselves to the Lord's command to make disciples of all nations, to develop committed and faithful followers of Jesus Christ, and to be people of conviction identifiable by:

1. Their commitment to know what they believe and who they are in Christ;
2. Their competence through spiritual discipline, calling, and empowerment, and;

3. Their character development, which will result in reproducing themselves, disciples making disciples.

This commitment will be demonstrated by:

- Understanding that discipleship must be intentional for all believers upon their acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Savior. If we are to retain them, they must be taught and have someone who will disciple them.
- Asking every church to prioritize discipleship in every facet of their ministry. Everything that is planned and executed in the local church should be identified as part of the discipleship process for those who are involved. The local church must understand that the growth process is ever evolving and must provide a framework by which growth can happen.
- Providing resources and discipleship experiences that will assist pastors and church leaders in the discipleship process, understanding that models may vary, but the outcome will be committed Christ followers.
- Understanding that passing the faith to the next generation will require making disciples of all ages. Discipleship must begin at the earliest age and continue.

(Matthew 5:43-48; 22:37-38; 28:19-20; John 14:15, 21-23; 15:10; Acts 1:8; 2:1-11, 41-47; Romans 12:1-2; 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Galatians 5:22-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-23; 2 John 6.)

10. EDUCATION

We commit ourselves to education as a vital part of all phases of the Spirit-filled Christian life. Education is to be nurtured by the church: locally in rural areas, towns, and cities; regionally in counties, states, and geographical regions; internationally in every country with a Church of God presence; and globally on every continent of the world. We will demonstrate our commitment by:

- Developing and fostering means of self-education with access to educational resources.
- Recognizing local-church institutions which provide education in church and/or school formats.
- Affirming in public places those who minister in education.
- Sponsoring educational institutions of higher learning to equip laity, ministers, institutions, and ministries.
- Providing curriculum and materials which affirm the doctrines, practices, mission, vision, and commitments of the Church of God.

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 quadrennially (non-Assembly years) at a time and location set by the Canadian National Executive Council to consider any recommendations from the Canadian national council. (9th A., 2015)

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 quadrennially (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.

(9th A., 2015)

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. (6th 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. (6th 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. (8th 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. (6th 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. (6th 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. (6th 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. (6th A., 2009)
5. The National Executive Council shall set the date and location of the quadrennially National Assembly. (9th A., 2015)
6. The council shall promote a National Church Planting program targeting new areas of Canada in conjunction with the Regional Overseers. (6th A., 2009)

Canadian National Executive Committee

1. Selection

The Canadian National Executive Committee shall be comprised of the International Executive Committee liaison, who shall serve as Chairman, and the Regional Overseers.

2. Duties and Authorities

1. This committee 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 Executive Council meetings. At a time set by the International recommendations to be brought to the Canadian National Executive Council.
2. The International Executive Committee liaison with the National Executive Committee and Council shall have supervision of all national mission monies, tithes, national properties and all funds received and disbursed from the national treasury.
3. The National Executive Committee 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.
4. The National Executive Committee shall coordinate national benefits for Canadian ministers, such as pensions, group insurance, etc.
5. The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for government programs such as tax exemptions, government subsidies, etc.
6. The National Executive Committee shall promote all national church educational institutions.
7. The National Executive Committee shall coordinate public relations activities on a national level. (9th A., 2015)

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, together with the National Executive Council, shall be responsible for Canadian World Missions. (9th A., 2015)
3. 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.
4. He shall make recommendations to the International Executive Committee in regard to the appointments of the regional overseers.
5. He shall be responsible to promote harmony among the regional overseers by planning an appropriate forum to address issues relevant to national unity.
6. He shall work with the Church of God educational institutions to provide training opportunities for the ministers of Canada.
7. He shall recommend to the International Executive Committee a person to represent Canadian interests on the Church of God International Council. (6th A., 2009)

Canadian Regional Overseers

1. Selection

Regional Overseers shall be appointed by the International Executive Committee, for a four-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. (9th A., 2015)

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 four years, terminating the Sunday following the close of the General Assembly. (9th A., 2015) 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. (6th 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 three 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. (9th A., 2015)

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 secretarytreasurer 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. (6th A., 2009)
19. Send all monthly regional financial statements and annual audits to the National Office. (6th A., 2009)
20. Supply a current status of all ministers in a region to the National Office, a current minister's mailing list, new ministers, those ministers whose license has been revoked, and other pertinent information to the National Office operations, as needed. (6th 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.