

CCMBC General Operating Bylaws

Article 5 The Authority and Accountability Structures within the Conference

Section 4 Plebiscites and Referenda

The Conference in Convention is empowered to decide all matters corporately affecting the Member Churches. Plebiscites and referenda may be used only if authorized by a two-thirds majority vote at a Convention.

Preamble

At the Gathering 2018 Convention, churches approved the collaborative model in principle. At the 2019 Annual General Meeting, churches approved the implementation of the collaborative model. In order to complete this implementation, a set of motions must be approved by the churches to bring all of the governing documents into alignment. By allowing the use of referenda, churches are able to conduct business and approve the changes in a fashion which will emulate how parts of the collaborative model will function going forward.

Article 1 - Purpose

The policies set forth in this document define the procedures to be followed for any Referenda conducted by the Conference based on the motion presented at the CCMBC 2020 Convention.

Article 2- Definition of the Referenda Motions

Under the guidance of the Executive Board and following the precedents set by the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws, all motions to be presented as Referenda will include the mover of the motion and all supporting documents.

Article 3 - Notice of Referenda

Under the guidance of the Executive Board and following the precedents set by the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws, notice of each motion will be provided to all MB churches at least 6 weeks in advance of the first provincial convention to be held in 2021. All supporting documents will be published with each motion.

Article 4 - Registering Church Delegates for Referenda

1. Referenda voting will be done by church delegates following the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws Article 6 Section 4, whereby the maximum number of delegates per church is one (1) pastor delegate per church and one (1) delegate for every twenty-five (25) members or fraction thereof of that Member Church.
2. Member Churches must register their delegates for a provincial convention at which point each church delegate will receive one ballot for each Referenda motion. Where provinces have a different church delegate ratio than the one defined by the CCMBC bylaws, the CCMBC ratio will be followed for distribution of Referenda ballots to the voting church delegates.
3. A church delegate must be present in person at a provincial convention to receive their ballots and to cast their vote.
4. The rules and procedures governing church delegate registration at the provincial convention will also govern the registration of church delegates for the purpose of the Referenda.

Article 5 - Ballot Design

1. Each ballot will contain a copy of the motion to be approved.

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2. Each ballot will include check boxes to indicate the delegate's vote. It may include options such as "In Favour/Yes", "Against/No", or might have a list of candidates for nomination.
3. Simple instructions may be included on the ballot to indicate how many check boxes are to be marked. For example, "Check one box only to indicate a vote of Yes or No."
4. Delegates will be allowed to include comments on the back of the ballots to provide feedback to the Executive Board regarding the motion.

Article 6 - Voting Procedure

1. At each provincial convention, time will be allotted for the voting on each Referenda motion. The convention Moderator will present the motion and allow for discussion on the floor. No amendments are allowed to the Referenda motions.
2. When the time for the vote is called, each delegate shall place their marked ballots into a ballot box provided by a member of the national staff. A single, secured ballot box will be carried to all provincial conventions.
3. All ballots must be placed in the ballot box at the time when the vote is called. Hence, ballots will only be received and considered valid when submitted at a provincial convention and placed into the ballot box at the time provided. No other form of ballot submission such as mail, email or fax will be allowed.
4. As defined in the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws, proxy voting is prohibited. A church delegate must be present in person to cast the ballot they received at registration.

Article 7 - Concept of Quorum

As it is required that church delegates register at a provincial convention in order to vote, each of the six provincial convention quorum requirements must be met. The total delegates represented by these minimum convention quorum requirements exceeds the minimum of 100 church delegates required to pass a motion at Convention. Hence, a quorum requirement for voting is not required by these policies.

Article 8 - Tabulation of Results

1. Within two weeks of the close of the last of the six provincial conventions of 2021, the ballots from all Referenda will be counted by a Ballot Team of no fewer than 3 people who are selected by the Executive Board. Names of the Ballot Team will be published along with the results.
2. For a motion to carry, a simple majority of the votes cast will be considered sufficient, unless the motion has a higher threshold specified in the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws. For example, an amendment to the General Operating Bylaws requires a two-thirds majority.
3. The Executive Board has the right to establish a higher threshold for passing a motion. If more than a simple majority is required, the majority threshold will be declared with the motion.
4. The Ballot Team has authority to tabulate the ballot results and will discern if a ballot has been spoiled. The complete ballot results including the number of spoiled ballots will be reported to the Executive Board for each motion. (Note: Comments/feedback written on ballots will not influence the tabulation. Results will be based solely on the marked check boxes.)
5. All feedback provided from church delegates on the ballots will also be forwarded to the Executive Board.
6. The ballots will be retained for 1 year before being destroyed in case there is any additional scrutiny of the ballots requested by a formal motion of the churches.

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Article 9 - Publication of Results

Within two weeks of the close of the last of the six provincial conventions of 2021, the results of the Referenda will be published on the CCMBC web site for all churches and an email will be sent to all churches with the results.

Article 10 - Effectivity Date of Referenda Motions

1. Within two weeks of the close of the last of the six provincial conventions of 2021, the Executive Board will hold a meeting to officially record the results of the Referenda. The Referenda motions will be enacted on the date of the Executive Board meeting as recorded in the Executive Board minutes.
2. Should a motion be defeated, the Executive Board, under the authorities defined by the General Operating Bylaws, will be responsible to discern any actions required such as hosting a Special Convention to allow for additional voting.

Article 11 - Limitations and Constraints

1. The policies defined in this document apply only to Referenda motions issued under the authority granted to the Executive Board at the 2020 Convention.
2. These policies may not be altered once the first Referenda ballot has been cast.
3. No substantive changes will be allowed to these policies after the 2020 Convention unless required by law or by other governing documents of the provincial conventions so as to ensure the Referenda are properly executed.
4. In the case that any of these policies require updating, the Executive Board must notify all churches by email and by publishing the updated policy document on the CCMBC web site.
5. These policies are subject to the dates specified in this document.

Article 12 - Effective Date

This policy has been approved and enacted by the Executive Board on 23 April 2020.

Article 13 - Duration

This policy will expire on either:

- i. 31 December 2021, or
- ii. the date that the MB churches approve the amendments to the General Operating Bylaws such that the collaborative model is implemented,

whichever comes first.