

**CCMBC General Operating Bylaws: Article 5, 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.

**MOTION:**

It is moved that the Executive Board be given authority to use Referenda as described under the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws Article 5 Section 4 and in accordance with the CCMBC 2021 Referenda Policy approved by the Executive Board and provided with this motion.

**Purpose of Holding Referenda:**

- Referenda allow Conference matters to be decided by a wider group of church delegates than just those who are able to attend the Convention being hosted. They allow motions to be sent out to the churches for their decision.
- The collaborative model proposes that churches be allowed to provide their input towards national Conference matters at their individual provincial conventions. By using referenda ballots that are collected at provincial conventions, it is possible to emulate how future decisions will be processed under the new collaborative model.
- By casting votes at provincial conventions, delegates are able to receive presentations and discuss the matter with other church delegates.

**Sample of Possible Referenda Motions:**

All referenda motions and related materials for decision making will be made public at least 6 weeks before the first provincial convention in 2021. The following are samples only:

- *Our church is in favour of the motion to approve the 2021 CCMBC budget as presented by the National Ministry Team.*
- *Our church is in favour of the motion to approve the proposed amendments to the CCMBC General Operating Bylaws in order to implement the collaborative model.*
- *Our church is in favour of the motion to approve National Assembly Policies in order to implement the collaborative model.*
- *Our church is in favour of the motion to approve the Collaborative Strategic Plan as presented by the National Ministry Team.*

**Overview of Proposed Voting Process:**

- The referenda votes will be cast by MB church delegates during the provincial conventions hosted from February 2021 through May 2021. A national conference representative will be present at each provincial convention to explain the referenda motions and receive feedback.
- One referendum ballot will be distributed to each nationally registered church delegate that attends a provincial conference convention.
- When the question is called to approve the referenda motions at the provincial convention, the ballots will be considered “cast” once completed by the church delegate and given to the national representative who will collect all ballots in a single, locked and sealed container.
- The ballots will be counted only after the final provincial convention is held so that results from earlier voting are not influencing later votes. There will be no subtotals by region.
- The national representative may bring forward feedback from earlier provincial conventions so that church delegates are aware of general discussions.
- Church comments may also be included using the back of the ballots.
- The full details of the referenda procedures are detailed in the policy document approved by the Executive Board entitled “**CCMBC 2021 Referenda Policy**”.