

2. Agenda

Early Sitting of General Conference 2021

FMCiC

February 20, 2021

AGENDA

1. Attendance and Call to Order
 - a. Zoom site available at 8:45 PST (9:45 MST, 10:45 CST, 11:45 EST).
 - b. **Vote #1 Attendance** will be open to establish quorum.
 - c. Call to order at 9:00 PST (10:00 MST, 11:00 CST, 12:00 EST). The meeting will be adjourned no later than 2 hours after call to order.
 - d. Initial announcements and prayer. Jessica Isaac and Bishop Fletcher.
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Confirmation of quorum.
 - b. **Vote # 2** Agenda
 - c. Conference communication – Core Video (Sandy Crozier)
3. World Conference Referendum – Interventions
 - a. Results of Vote #2 Agenda
 - b. **Vote #3** World Conference
 - c. April Regional Gathering – Cliff Fletcher
4. Motion to Change Wording for Global Ministries Giving Stream
 - a. Results of Vote #3 World Conference – Interventions
 - b. **Vote #4** Global Ministries Giving Stream
5. Election of the Bishop
 - a. Notes on General Conference elections
 - b. BOA Sub-report on bishop accountability
 - c. Results of Vote #4 Global Ministries Giving Stream
 - d. **Vote #5** Election of the bishop
 - e. PRAYER for our Movement – National Prayer Team Representative
6. Report of the Nominating Committee and elections of BOA, SCOD and MEGaP
 - a. Voting process explained – Jared Siebert
 - b. Results of Vote #5 Election of the bishop
 - c. **Vote #6** Elections of BOA, SCOD and MEGaP opened. To close 2 hours after adjournment.
7. Election of the Nominating Committee
 - a. **Vote#7** Election of the Nominating Committee opened. To close 2 hours after adjournment.
8. Final announcements and adjournment

3. Referendum Presented by the 2019 FM World Conference

Resolution #3: A Resolution to amend ¶220.4.4. of the Common Constitution (Submitted by: the ad hoc Constitutional Task Force established on the floor of the 2019 World Conference)

Whereas the World Conference exists to support the mission and ministry of the worldwide Free Methodist movement;

Whereas language in the FMC Book of Discipline's Common Constitution is unclear around the role of the World Conference in dealing with crisis situations in General Conferences; and

Whereas some leaders have been unwilling to invite the World Conference Executive Committee to assist in spite of overwhelming evidence of the need for outside objective perspective;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

To amend Paragraph 220.4.4. as follows:

[Where applicable, red, bold, italic text indicates an addition, while bold strikethrough text indicates a deletion to the current text of the Common Constitution.]

“¶220 GENERAL CONFERENCES

4. Relationship to the World Conference

4.4 The board of administration of a general conference may appeal to the World Conference Executive Committee (see ¶230.7) for counsel to assist with the resolution of conflicts within its general conference, *or, if the World Conference Executive Committee is convinced of a general conference's non-compliance with the Common Constitution, the World Conference Executive Committee may initiate assistance, counsel and mediation.* The World Conference Executive Committee shall limit its involvement to the giving of counsel and assistance with mediation. If no solution satisfactory to the conflict is reached, the matter shall be referred to the next sitting of the World Conference and its ruling shall prevail.”

This motion was approved by the 2019 World Conference and is presented as a referendum to all General Conferences.

4. Motion to Change Wording for Global Ministries Giving Stream

Whereas to accomplish a clear communication of a missions' approach that embraces the local, national and international realms; the previously known Global Ministries has been renamed as the Intercultural Engagement Ministries.

Whereas the desire to clearly define the disbursement of funds for both the denominational body and in compliance with the government's Canada Revenue Agency.

The Motion:

That the name and description of the Global Ministries giving stream be changed as follows:

Manual Changes

iv. Current Statement:

Chapter 4, para #440 Funding, point 3 under Giving Streams (page 10)
Global Ministries: Support for global ministries proceeding from Canadian church involvements

v. Proposed Statement:

Chapter 4, para #440 Funding, point 3 under Giving Streams
Intercultural Engagement Ministries: support for approved local, national and international ministries proceeding from Canadian church involvements.

5. Election of the Bishop

Excerpts from section 860 of the Manual:

The bishop is elected to serve the church as an overseer. This ordained minister functions as a teacher and defender of the faith, a general shepherd, a pastor to the pastors, and an administrator who by good example and faithful application of *The Manual* assures the order of the church. The bishop is to inspire the church by preaching and being an example of one who carries out Christ's great commission.

A bishop will normally indicate to the board of administration no later than six months in advance of a general conference if he/she does not intend to stand for re-election.

Bishops shall be amenable to the conference for their character and for the discharge of the duties. They shall report at least annually to the board of administration on the state of the work.

The Ballot:

Are you in favour of re-electing Bishop Cliff Fletcher to an additional term:

Yes

No

Abstain

5a. Notes on General Conference Elections

This General Conference, originally scheduled for May 2020 but now extended to June 2021, has been an interesting challenge as we learn how to best conduct our business in a virtual setting. We have come to grips with establishing quorum and voting on various motions in our two early sittings to date. In February we will hold our elections and I want to inform you of some of the differences that you will encounter.

There will be three sets of nominations presented, and for clarity we will have three ballots. These are the election of the bishop, the report of the Nominating Committee with nominations for the following: Board of Administration; Ministerial Education, Guidance and Placement Committee; and Study Commission on Doctrine; and, finally, the nominations for the Nominating Committee (prepared by the National Leadership Team, Network Leaders, pastors and mentors).

The electronic ballots will be slightly different from our previous paper ballot. For each nominee there will be three options: Yes, No, and Abstain. Election for each nominee requires more Yes votes than No votes (a simple majority). The Abstain option is available for those who choose not to vote for or against that particular nominee. For the various committees, there will be an option to vote for the entire slate of nominees rather than having to vote on each one separately. There is no provision for 'write-in' votes as we have provided when using paper ballots. I will address that below. The vote for bishop will be completed and reported during the early sitting. We will provide instructions on how to complete the other two ballots on your own. Those ballots will be opened during the sitting and remain open for an additional two hours during which support will be available from our staff.

All nominees have been vetted in some way before being put forward. In the case of the bishop, he has interacted with pastors and delegates at ministers' meetings and regional gatherings throughout the term. The Board of Administration will also report on their accountability process for the bishop. Nominees for all committees were solicited from delegates, pastors, and national teams. Names were collected and prayed about, references checked, and interviews conducted prior to selecting the nominees. You will receive a short biography on each nominee.

The electronic voting process that we use makes it difficult to record write-in votes and still maintain voting integrity. I would suggest that there are two reasons for write-in votes and propose how handle each. First, you may object to a nomination. In this case you may want to speak to the nominee or a representative of the nominating committee ahead of time to resolve the issue. If you remain opposed to the nomination, then vote 'No'. If sufficient no votes are received, then the nominee will not be elected and a subsequent recommendation will be made to the BOA to fill the position. Secondly, if you believe that someone else, who was not nominated, would be a good member of the committee being filled, then you should suggest that name to the Nominating Committee (or National Leadership Team) for consideration if a position opens during the upcoming term. This ensures that your suggestion undergoes the same prayerful consideration that other nominees have been afforded. We welcome suggestions for all committees, but we also want to ensure that sufficient time is available to allow both the nominating body and the individual to consider the position.

Results of the elections will be made available shortly after they have been tabulated. All elected positions take effect at the close of the General Conference sitting in June. If you have any questions, please contact me at hgonyou@shaw.ca. Thank you for serving as delegate or minister in the FMCiC.

5b. Sub-report from the Board of Administration: Bishop Accountability and Re-election

During each General Conference we hold an election for the position of bishop. In most cases, this is a re-election of the sitting bishop to another term. The bishop is amenable to the conference, but between General Conferences he/she submits reports to the Board of Administration (paragraph 860). During this term the BOA discussed our role in holding the bishop accountable and how to best accomplish that responsibility. We implemented changes in two areas.

Personnel Team: We better defined the requirement of the Personnel Team to conduct the bishop's performance appraisal on a regular basis, and that this appraisal would be led by a lay representative of the BOA on the team. A summary of the appraisal is reported to the BOA.

In camera sessions: Each regular (semi-annual) BOA meeting includes an in-camera session followed by a meeting with the bishop to discuss recent initiatives, successes and any shortcomings. In addition, in a session prior to General Conference we met to provide feedback to the conference.

Members of conference will use a variety of information sources to decide their vote to re-elect a bishop. Part of this are their interactions with the bishop since the previous General Conference. The BOA, based on performance appraisals from the Personnel Team and its interactions with the bishop, recommends that Bishop Fletcher be re-elected for another term.