
What's New in the April 2021 Model Church Bylaws

The previous version of the *Model Church Bylaws* was released in October 2020 and was in effect until late April 2021. The current version includes the following additions and revisions, listed by clause number:

- Addition of an explanatory note under the **Preamble**:

[The order of documents is intentional to designate the hierarchy of the governing documents. For churches that are separately incorporated, the Societies Act must be included as the first document.]

- Revision of the definition of "**special resolution**" to:

means a resolution that requires a **TWO-THIRDS (2/3)** majority of the votes cast at a general meeting by the members eligible to vote or at a meeting of the Board. It is required to make fundamental changes to the organization and governance of the church and decisions about major issues.

[The threshold may be increased above a two-thirds (2/3) majority if the church desires (ex. a three-quarter (3/4) or 75% majority threshold).]

- Addition of two clauses in **Part 2 – Membership**:

2.3.3.1 A Member not in Good Standing may not vote at meetings of the members, nor hold office in the church.

2.3.3.2 A Member not in Good Standing may be returned to Active Member status at the discretion of the Board.

- Revision of the first sentence of clause **3.1.2** to become **3.1.3**:

3.1.3 **THE BOARD MUST RECOMMEND AN INDEPENDENT CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT TO THE MEMBERS TO COMPILE OR REVIEW OR AUDIT THE CHURCH'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.**

- Revision of the second sentence of clause **3.1.2** to become **3.1.4**:

3.1.4 The members must appoint an independent Chartered Professional Accountant to **compile or review or audit** the church's financial statements for the upcoming year.

- Revision of clause **3.2 b)** to:

3.2 Special meetings of members to consider special or urgent business:

- b) must be called by the Board when requested by at least **10%** of the Active Members in good standing. Such request shall include a brief written statement of purpose.

A question was raised regarding the ability of churches to change clause 3.2 in order to use the previous language and it was noted that this is a best practice clause, and a church could change this to meet their unique situation.

- Revision of clause **3.3** to:

3.3 NOTICE OF MEETING MUST BE GIVEN TO MEMBERS BY **verbal and/or print media and/or electronic media (email, church website, etc.)** AT LEAST **twenty-one (21) days and not more than sixty (60) days** PRIOR TO ANY MEETING OF MEMBERS. SUCH NOTICE MUST INDICATE THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING.

- Revision of clause **3.4** into two mandatory clause options:

3.4 THE QUORUM FOR A DULY CALLED MEETING OF THE MEMBERS IS THE ACTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT.

3.4 THE QUORUM FOR A DULY CALLED MEETING OF THE MEMBERS IS PERCENT OF THE ACTIVE MEMBERS.

[A church may use either of the above clauses, however, if the percentage option is chosen, then the following clauses are recommended. The term "Active Member" must be associated with the church's bylaws.]

- Addition of a new clause as **3.6** (moving the current clause **3.6** to become **3.7**):

3.6 The Board of Elders may, during exceptional circumstances, approve and provide for electronic voting measures and procedures to conduct an Annual General Meeting or Special Meeting of the church's members, if, in the opinion of the Board, those measures are necessary to conduct the meeting.

- Revision of clause **4.2.1** to:

4.2.1 A BOARD MEMBER MAY SERVE A MAXIMUM OF **two (2) to three (3)** CONSECUTIVE TERMS AND SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.
- Revision of clause **4.15 b)** to:

4.15 A Board member may be removed from office by special resolution of the Board if the member:

 - b) becomes ineligible under the Income Tax Act
- Addition of clause **4.15 d)**:

4.15 A Board member may be removed from office by special resolution of the Board if the member:

 - d) becomes a Member not in Good Standing
- Revision of clause **5.7** to:

5.7 THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MUST BE REVIEWED / AUDITED BY AN INDEPENDENT CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT. THE REVIEWED / AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MUST BE PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCOUNTING STANDARDS FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.
- Revision of clause **5.7.1** to become clause **3.12**:

3.1.2 THE COMPILED OR REVIEWED OR AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS.
- Revision of "Finance Committee" in clauses **5.8** and **5.9** to "Financial Statement Review Committee"

- Revision of clause 8.3 to:

8.3 SHOULD THE CHURCH CEASE TO EXIST, ALL OF ITS REAL PROPERTY, APPURTENANCES, AND EFFECTS THEN OWNED OR HELD BY IT SHALL INURE TO THE BENEFIT OF AND BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE – CANADIAN PACIFIC DISTRICT, PROVIDED THAT THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE – CANADIAN PACIFIC DISTRICT IS A QUALIFIED DONEE AS DEFINED BY THE INCOME TAX ACT OF CANADA. IN THE EVENT THAT THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE – CANADIAN PACIFIC DISTRICT IS NOT A QUALIFIED DONEE, THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE IN CANADA, PROVIDED THAT IT IS A QUALIFIED DONEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE INCOME TAX ACT OF CANADA.