
CONSTITUTION

**General Conference
of the
CANADIAN ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents..... 2

PREFACE..... 3

PREAMBLE: 4

CONSTITUTION 5

ARTICLE I THE NAME..... 5

ARTICLE II TERRITORIES..... 5

ARTICLE III NATURE..... 5

ARTICLE IV OBJECTIVES AND PREROGATIVES..... 5

ARTICLE V TENETS OF FAITH 6

ARTICLE VI GENERAL CONFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP 10

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS 11

ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS 11

ARTICLE IX LOCAL ASSEMBLIES 11

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS 12

PREFACE

The General Conference of the Canadian Assemblies of God was authorized by Supplementary Letters Patent, the 29th day of October, 1959, pursuant to the provisions of the Quebec Companies Act (R. S. aQ. 1941, Chapter 276) and such Supplementary Letters Patent amending the name, objects, powers, and by-laws of the Corporation, as set forth in the Letters Patent of Incorporation, dated January 14, 1926 and Supplementary Letters Patent dated September 23, 1936, and granted to the Chiesa Cristiana Pentecostale of Montreal, Quebec, and such incidental and auxiliary powers possessed by the Corporation in accordance with the Ecclesiastical Charter passed by an Act of Parliament and granted to the Corporation April 4, 1929: Extract of Statute of the Province of Quebec, 19 George V 1929, Chapter 125.

The Constitution was adopted by the General Conference of the Canadian Assemblies of God, June 20, 1958, with amendments as authorized by General Conference to 1988.

The General Conference of the Canadian Assemblies of God adopted and authorized this present Constitution on the 8th day of October 1988, which supersedes and replaces all previous Constitutions.

The General Conference meets annually and between such Conferences, the General Executive Committee is responsible for all business committed to it.

CONSTITUTION
of the
General Conference of the
CANADIAN ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS it is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people, who shall constitute the Church of Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone and

WHEREAS the members of the body, the Church of Jesus Christ were enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, counsel and instruction in the Word of God, the work of the ministry and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for the New Testament Church Order, and

WHEREAS it is evident that the early apostolic church came together in such fellowship as a representative body of saved, spirit-filled believers who ordained and sent out evangelists and missionaries, and who, under the supervision of the Holy Spirit, set over the church pastors and teachers, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED we recognize that we are a co-operative fellowship of Pentecostal, spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout Canada, whose purpose is to exercise scriptural direction over the various local assemblies, but not to deprive them of their scriptural rights and privileges, to recognize and promote scriptural methods for worship, unity, fellowship and work for God, and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace “till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I THE NAME

The name of this body shall be **General Conference of the Canadian Assemblies of God**.

ARTICLE II TERRITORIES

The operation of the **General Conference of the Canadian Assemblies of God** shall be carried on throughout Canada and all parts of the world from the International Headquarters of the Corporation in the City of Montreal, and the Province of Quebec.

ARTICLE III NATURE

The **General Conference of the Canadian Assemblies of God** (formerly The Italian Pentecostal Church of Canada) is a co-operative fellowship based upon mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its members.

ARTICLE IV OBJECTIVES AND PREROGATIVES

- (a) To preach the gospel.
- (b) To conduct public worship.
- (c) To provide places of worship.
- (d) To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like faith, approving all scriptural teaching, method and conduct.
- (e) To organize and conduct schools of religious instruction.
- (f) To carry on missionary work for the spread of the gospel.
- (g) To carry on charitable and philanthropic work of every kind.
- (h) To publish, sell and distribute Christian literature.
- (i) To collect, solicit and accept funds or other subscriptions for the carrying on of the work of the Corporation, and for any other religious or benevolent purposes.
- (j) To exercise any of the powers usually conferred on duly incorporated benevolent societies by either Federal or Provincial authorities.
- (k) The right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of such property, real or personal as may be needed for the prosecution of the work, and to invest and keep invested such funds
- (l) as may be placed at its disposition for the furtherance of the objectives of The Canadian Assemblies of God and to dispose of the entire undertaking of the Corporation.
- (m) To examine candidates for the ministry and to license and ordain as ministers those who shall meet the standards of the Scriptures (I Timothy 3: 1-8; Titus 1: 5-9) and the requirements of the Fellowship, and to assume the oversight of all ministerial matters in the entire Fellowship as far as the General Conference may be affected thereby.

ARTICLE V

TENETS OF FAITH

Preamble:

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule of faith and practice. Hence this Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e. that we all speak the same thing, I Corinthians 1: 10; Acts 2:42). The human phraseology employed in such statement is not inspired nor contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full Gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all truth in the Bible, only that it covers our present needs as to these fundamental matters.

1. HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe that the entire Bible is the infallible and the inerrant Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit; a revelation from God to man, the infallible rule of faith and conduct. It is superior to conscience and reason but not contrary to reason, to which nothing can be added or taken away. (II Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 2:2; II Peter 1: 21)

2. THE GODHEAD

The One True God

We believe there is but one living and true God, everlasting, of infinite power, wisdom and goodness; Maker and Preserver of all things, both visible and invisible. And in the unity of this Godhead, there are three distinct Persons, of one substance, eternal, and equal in holiness, justice, wisdom, power, and dignity: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29; Isaiah 43:10-11; Matthew 28: 19; Luke 3:22).

(a) The Father

The Father exists eternally as the Creator of heaven and earth the Giver of the law, to Whom all things will be subjected, so that He may be All in All. (Genesis 1:1; 1 Corinthians 15:28).

(b) The Son

We believe that the Son, Who is the Word of the Father and very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and the manhood (the divine and the human) were joined together in one person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God and perfect man, the only Saviour who actually suffered, was crucified, dead and buried, to reconcile us to the Father and to make atonement for all the sins of the whole world. He was raised from the dead and now He is at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our High Priest (II Corinthians 5:18-21; Isaiah 53:4-12; John 1:14; Luke 1:27-35; I Peter 2:24; 3:18; Matthew 28:6; I Corinthians 15:4; Acts 1:9,11; Philippians 2:9-11).

(c) The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God, performing actions and possessing the attributes of deity. He has personal characteristics and individuals may relate to Him as a person. (Acts 5:3-4; John 16:13-14).

3. ANGELS

(a) Angels

We believe that angels were created as intelligent and powerful beings to do the will of God and worship Him.

(b) Demons

We believe that Satan, the originator of sin fell through pride and was followed by those angels who rebelled against God. These fallen angels or demons will be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (Revelation 5:11-12; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

4. MAN, HIS FALL AND REDEMPTION

Man was created good and upright; for God said: "Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." But man, by voluntary transgression, fell, and consequently, incurred both spiritual and physical death, which is separation from God. His only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ the Son of God. (Genesis 1:26-31; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-27).

5. THE SALVATION OF MAN

(a) Conditions to Salvation

Salvation is received through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The grace of God, which brings salvation, has appeared to all men, through the preaching of repentance before God. Man is saved by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit. Being justified by grace through faith, he becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 2:11; Acts 20:21; Romans 10:13-15; Luke 24:47; Titus 3:5-7).

(b) The Evidences of Salvation.

The inward evidence, to the believer of his salvation, is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness.

6. THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

(a) Baptism in Water

The ordinance of Baptism by immersion should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures, by all who have really repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Savior and Lord. In so doing, they have the body washed in pure water as an outward symbol of cleansing, while their hearts have already been sprinkled with the blood of Christ as an inner cleansing. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Jesus and they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:4; Acts 20:21; Hebrews 10:22).

(b) The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements, bread and the fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 2:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 2:26); and is enjoined upon all believers "*until He comes*" (Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 2:24).

7. THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

All believers are entitled to, and should ardently expect, and earnestly seek, the promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church.

With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, and bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of new birth. (Acts 10:44-46; 15:7-9).

(a) The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance. (Acts 2:4; 10:45-47; 19:6).

8. SANCTIFICATION

(a) Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God. The scriptures teach a life of holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command, "Be ye Holy, for I am Holy." Entire sanctification is the will of God for all believers, and should be earnestly pursued by walking in obedience to God's Word (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 1 John 2:6; Romans 12:1-2).

(b) We affirm the decision of the Apostles as declared in the First General Council held in Jerusalem. (Acts 15:20-29; 16:4; 21:25).

9. THE CHURCH

All who are born again are members of the universal church, which is the Body and Bride of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:25b; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:15).

The Local Church is a body of believers in Christ who have joined together to function as a part of the universal Church. It is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the First-born, whose names are written in heaven. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

10. THE MINISTRY AND EVANGELISM

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a two-fold purpose; (1) The evangelization of the world (Matthew 28: 19-20) and (2) The edifying of the Body of Christ (Mark 16:15-20; Ephesians 4:11-13; Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 5:17).

11. DIVINE HEALING

Divine healing is an integral part of the Gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4-5; (Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:18; James 5:14-16).

12. THE END OF TIMES

(a) The Present State of the Dead

At death the souls of the believers pass immediately into the presence of the Lord, and these remain in total bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body. (2 Corinthians 5:1-8; Philippians 1:21, 24; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44; Romans 8:22-23). The souls of the unbelievers remain after death conscious of condemnation until the final resurrection and judgment of the unjust (Luke 16:22, 31; John 3:36; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; Revelation 20:11).

(b) The Rapture

The rapture, the blessed hope of the Church, is the coming of the Lord in the air to receive to Himself His own, both the living who shall be transformed, and the dead in Christ who shall be resurrected. For this event the believer should be constantly looking (1 Thessalonians 4:13, 18; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51, 57).

(c) The Tribulation

The rapture of the Church will be followed by the tribulation, during which the Church will be with the Lord. The tribulation will be a time of judgment on the whole earth (Revelation 3:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 5:9-10; 2 Thessalonians 2:12-13; Matthew 24:15, 21-22).

(d) The Millennial Reign of Christ

The return of Christ to earth in glory will conclude the great tribulation and will introduce the millennial age which will bring the salvation of national Israel (2 Thessalonians 1:7; Romans 11:28; Revelation 19:11, 14:20:1, 7).

(e) The Final Judgement

There will be a final judgement in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged at the great white throne, according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil, his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43, 48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11, 15; 21:8).

f) The New Heavens and New Earth

We, "according to His Promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness." (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:11).

ARTICLE VI GENERAL CONFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

a) The General Conference shall possess all the powers of a General Meeting of the members of the Corporation duly convened, and all the powers granted to the Corporation by Supplementary Letters Patent, and the incidental and auxiliary powers possessed by the Corporation in accordance with the Ecclesiastical Charter passed by an Act of Parliament and granted to the Corporation April 4, 1929: Extract of the Statute of the Province of Quebec, 19 George V 1929, Chapter 125. The said General Conference shall possess power to pass by-laws from time to time for the conduct and management of the Corporation. It shall have power by a two-thirds vote of the members of the said General Conference to authorize a sale of the undertaking or assets of the Corporation; to authorize a winding up of the affairs of the Corporation.

b) Membership: The membership of the General Conference shall consist of all Credential holders (except Christian Workers) of the Corporation, all of whom hold current valid certificates; and duly appointed delegates from any affiliated local assembly.

c) Each assembly shall have the right to representation in the General Conference meetings by lay delegates. Representation shall be based on the membership of the assembly. Assemblies having a membership of one hundred or less shall have the right to be represented by one delegate. Assemblies having a membership of up to three hundred shall have the right to be represented by two delegates. Assemblies with a membership of over three hundred shall have the right to be represented by three delegates. Each lay delegate must be duly appointed by his church.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Regular sessions of the General Conference shall be held annually pursuant to a call by the General Superintendent at such time and place as the Executive Board shall determine. Special meetings of the General Conference may be arranged on agreement by majority of the Executive Board members.

ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS

(a) Executive Officers: The Executive Officers of the Corporation shall consist of the General Superintendent, the General Secretary, the General Treasurer, and two other members; and such officer or officers as may be added from time to time by action of General Conference. This Board of Directors and Executive Officers shall be known as the Executive Board.

(b) Credentials Committee: The Executive Board shall constitute a Credentials Committee.

ARTICLE IX LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

(a) Local Assemblies shall be comprised of born-again believers of Pentecostal persuasion, associating themselves together in a group for the purpose of worship, self-edification and world-wide evangelization. Its members shall share in maintaining scriptural order, a standard of holiness and agreement with the Tenets of Faith of The Canadian Assemblies of God (formerly Italian Pentecostal Church of Canada), and shall be faithful in financial support. The assemblies shall be set in order and have the privilege of calling a Pastor, electing a board, and conducting its business and being represented at the Annual General Conference according to the requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws of The Canadian Assemblies of God. It may acquire property, the title being held in trust by The Canadian Assemblies of God (formerly Italian Pentecostal Church of Canada) or by trustees duly appointed therefore by the local assembly or in its own corporate name as a self-governing body. The inter-relationship of The Canadian Assemblies of God (formerly Italian Pentecostal Church of Canada) and the local assembly shall be maintained according to the Constitution and By-Laws of The Canadian Assemblies of God. The assembly may appeal to the Executive Officers for help in solving local problems. Local Assemblies are expected to co-operate with National Programs, and are expected to contribute regularly to the world-wide Missionary Program of The Canadian Assemblies of God.

(b) Assemblies "set in order" shall be considered Sovereign Assemblies. All other groups shall be under the general supervision of the Executive Board until such time as they become Sovereign Assemblies.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regularly called session of the General Conference provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted six months prior thereto, in writing, through the General Secretary to the Executive Board. Notice of the proposed amendment shall be mailed to each of The Canadian Assemblies of God credential holders not later than 60 days prior to the General Conference. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.