
Required Election Elements in Church Bylaws

The following was recorded and approved by the District Executive Committee at the October 2023 meeting regarding required election elements in church bylaws:

There was extensive conversation about whether allowance should be made for a solitary church to have a non-traditional election process when there is no precedent in our district or nationally, with some concern expressed for making an exception in this case.

It was also noted that under the second bullet point of the proposed Required Election Elements, regarding quorum, that in the case of a church that had stipulated quorum as “the Active Members present at a duly called meeting”, that type of quorum would not be considered a reasonable threshold for an alternative election process that doesn’t take place at a constituted meeting.

Moved (D. Driedger) that the following be approved as the required election elements in CPD church bylaws:

- **A clear indication of membership support that meets the minimum requirement for board election:**
 - **The principle of one vote per Active Member.**
 - **There must be a reasonable threshold of required participation that is equivalent to a quorum.**
 - **The rights of Active Members to vote must be respected (i.e., no preferential group targeted).**
 - **There must be reasonable assurance that the Active Member who is eligible to vote is the person casting the vote.**
- **Although the process for election may change, the requirements for board members remain intact:**
 - **Board members must be voting members of the church (*Local Church Constitution*, Article 6.1 and 7).**
 - **Board members must meet the Scriptural requirements for the position (*Local Church Constitution*, Article 8.1)**
 - **Board members must meet any further bylaw requirements.**
 - **Board members must meet the requirements of the *BC Societies Act* sections 43 and 44 in an incorporated church, and this is a best practice if in an unincorporated church.**



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- **Board members must not be ineligible persons under the *Income Tax Act* of Canada.**
 - **Some form of vetting process (usually done by the nominating committee) must be performed.**
 - **Sufficient time (equivalent to notice) must be given for members to participate in the election process.**
 - **The results of the election process must be clearly communicated to the membership.**

CARRIED (6 for, 4 against)

