

Rationale for Constitution and Bylaw Changes

It has been more than forty years since a major revision to the Arkansas District Constitution and Bylaws. Incremental amendments and changes over the ensuing years have resulted in a document that no longer matches current practices and, in many cases, prescribes procedures that are no longer practical. In addition, many bylaw revisions were passed in order to address a current issue at the time of adoption that is no longer relevant. The goal of this process is to produce a durable document that allows flexibility for change while retaining our values, distinctives and organizational necessities. To that end, changes include the following.

1. Match Current Practice. Many things prescribed in the C&B don't match current practice. In some cases, we haven't done it as described in our C&B for more than a decade. We are attempting to make the C&B match current practice and offer more flexibility for future changes.
2. Replace archaic language.
3. Remove items that should be in the policy manual – for example: boundaries of sections.
4. Edit sections that are redundant or disagree with other portions of the C&B to ensure consistency.
5. Add and edit qualifications for offices – to provide more flexibility and accountability for future adjustments.
6. Add language to create a vetting process for District Secretary, EP's, and General Council GPs.
7. Eliminate sections that are confusing or shouldn't be in governing documents.
8. Clarify the roles of the EP and the Executive Committee (which will be renamed "Executive Leadership Team").
9. Eliminate mandated publishing of lists and The Gleaner – which are no longer printed.
10. Eliminate mandated committees that no longer function.
11. Add PAC language

12. Add and edit language to bring our C&B in alignment with the General Council
C&B

Statements of rationale that will be incorporated into the final resolution:

Whereas it has been more than forty years since the Arkansas District Constitution and Bylaws have undergone a comprehensive study and revision

And

Whereas it is necessary to update our governing documents to allow for flexibility in approach and method

And

Whereas it is necessary that the governing documents align with long-held current practices

And

Whereas many of the prescribed practices in the Constitution and Bylaws are no longer relevant

And

Whereas it is necessary to update language to allow for electronic transmission of documents and reports

And

Whereas it is necessary to update archaic language in our governing documents

And

Whereas it is necessary to properly align the Arkansas District Constitution and Bylaws with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws

And

Whereas it is necessary to add Parent Affiliated Church language to the Constitution and Bylaws

And

Whereas it is necessary to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the District Officers and the Executive Committee as listed in the Bylaws

And

Whereas it is necessary to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Presbytery as listed in the Bylaws

And

Whereas an update of the composition of the Executive Presbytery and qualifications for eligibility would ensure effective representation and leadership for the Arkansas District

And

Whereas a proper vetting procedure is needed for candidates for office

And

Whereas it is necessary to revise our documents to eliminate the mandate for committees that no longer exist

And

Whereas the current Constitution and Bylaws mandate publishing of The Pentecostal Gleaner, which has been discontinued

And

Whereas the current Constitution and Bylaws mandate the publishing of names of ministers who have been dismissed in The Ministers Letter, which is no longer a practice of the General Council

And

Whereas many areas of the Constitution and Bylaws should instead be found in the Arkansas District Policy Manual

And

Whereas it is necessary to resolve conflicts between the Constitution and the Bylaws

And

Whereas District Superintendent, Ronnie Morris called for a study of the current governing documents

And

Whereas Superintendent Morris called for a committee to suggest revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws

And

Whereas the Executive Presbytery and the District Presbytery have thoroughly reviewed and approved all suggested changes

Be it therefore resolved,

that the edits and changes noted in the suggested changes and corrections document be incorporated into the official constitution and bylaws of the Arkansas district.