

CONSTITUTION
OF
LADNER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY
Delta, B.C.
under "Society Act"

A. The name of the society is "LADNER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY".

B. The purposes of the Society are:

1. To WAIT on the Lord for wisdom & power: (PRAYER)
2. To WIN people to Jesus: (EVANGELISM)
3. To WELCOME them into His family (FELLOWSHIP)
4. To WALK WITH them toward Christian maturity: (DISCIPLESHIP)
5. To WORK toward meeting people's needs: (MINISTRY)
6. To WORSHIP God together (WORSHIP)
7. To have the right to govern itself, according to the standards of the New Testament Scriptures, "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace... until we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:3,13. While recognizing the inherent rights to sovereignty in the conduct of its own affairs, this assembly shall voluntarily enter into full cooperative fellowship with assemblies of like precious faith associated in The British Columbia and Yukon District Conference and the General Conference of The Pentecostal assemblies of Canada with headquarters at Toronto, Ontario; and shall share in the privileges and assume the responsibilities enjoined by that affiliation.

**LADNER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY
BY-LAWS**

BY-LAW I - TENETS OF FAITH

We believe most assuredly that the Holy Scriptures are God's final revelation and constitute our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Church, by virtue of its affiliation with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, shall accept the "Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths" as approved by The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and which is appended to these by-laws.

BY-LAW II - ORDINANCE AND PRACTICES

SECTION 1 - ORDINANCES

- A. The ordinance of baptism by immersion in water, Matthew 28:19, shall be administered to all those who have repented of their sins, and have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls, and who give clear evidence of their salvation. Romans 6:3-5 and Colossians 2:12.
- B. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper shall be regularly observed as enjoined in the scriptures. Luke 22:19-20 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

SECTION 2 - PRACTICES

- A. Dedication of Children. Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16.
- B. Prayer for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. John 7:37-39, Acts 2:1-4, 10:44-47.
- C. Prayer for the Sick. Exodus 15:26, Psalm 103:3, James 5:16.
- D. Christian Marriage. Ephesians 5:22-23.
- E. Christian Burial of the Dead. John 11:25-26, II Corinthians 5:1, 6-8, I Thessalonians 4:13-18.
- F. Prayer for any bonafide need.

BY-LAW III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1

Persons desiring to become members of this church shall give credible profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. They shall give evidence of compliance with the biblical standard of Christian practice and manifest spiritual growth by giving evidence of the fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22,23 NIV).

They shall refrain from "acts of the sinful nature: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like" (Galatians 5:19-21 NIV). Sexual immorality shall be interpreted to mean common-law marital relationships, pre-marital and extra-marital sexual relationships (1 Corinthians 6:15-18; 7:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4), and all forms of homosexual and lesbian activity, along with other practices deemed inexcusable for Christian conduct, and which place a person under God's judgment (Romans 1:26-2:11).

They shall indicate a desire to live in harmony with this body of believers, shall accept the doctrinal standards as set forth in this constitution, and shall be regular financial supporters of this church, recognizing that this Church approves the principle of tithing; and shall have attended regularly for a period of six months.

SECTION 2

Membership shall consist of the following:

- A. Regular Members. Person's 18 years of age and over whom fulfill the requirements of Section 1 shall be known as regular members.

- B. Junior Members. Persons between the ages of 12 and 18 who fulfill the requirements of Section 1 may be eligible for junior membership. Such membership does not qualify for voting privileges at congregational meetings.

SECTION 3 - MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

A membership committee composed of the Pastor and the Church Board shall receive applications for membership, shall make investigation relating thereto as is deemed necessary, and shall recommend for admission into the Assembly, those applicants who meet membership requirements.

SECTION 4 - PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

- A. Application for membership shall be received on a signed application form, approved by the Pastor and Board of Ladner Christian Fellowship Society. Whereby the applicant agrees to abide by the provisions of the constitution and by-laws of Ladner Christian Fellowship Society, including the terms of membership as stated in By-law III Section 1
- B. Applicants who have been approved by the membership committee for membership in this assembly will be publicly received into the church, and shall receive a membership card, which shall be renewed annually. Galatians 2:9.

SECTION 5 – TRANSFER

Members who move from another assembly and desire to have their membership transferred should request a certificate or letter of transfer from the membership committee of the former church for presentation to the membership committee of this church. The membership committee of this church shall give members who move to another assembly, upon written request, a certificate or letter of transfer.

SECTION 6 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- A. Grounds for termination of membership in this church shall include the following:
1. Voluntary withdrawal from membership of this assembly.
 2. Absence from the regular services of the assembly for three months without valid reason.
 3. After issue of a Transfer Certificate.
 4. Any proven immoral act or unchristian conduct after full investigation of the evidence according to subsequent paragraph (b).
 5. Propagating doctrines and practices contrary to those set forth in the Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Romans 16:17-18; and Proverbs 6:19.
 6. By reason of death.

B. DISCIPLINE

1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. The aims of discipline are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the local assembly may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration.

Discipline is to be administered for the restoration of church members, while fully providing for the protection and advancement of the spiritual welfare of our local assemblies. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective, and is to be exercised as under a dispensation of both justice and mercy. The following shall be proceeded with only after all other avenues of Christian counsel and brotherly admonition have been attempted. For the purposes of this by-law, "he" shall be deemed to include females.

2. Causes of Disciplinary Action

Any proven act or conduct which, in the opinion of the church board, after a full investigation of the evidence may be determined to be in contradiction of the terms as defined in Violation of Principles as stated in by-law III, Section 1 of this Constitution and by-laws may give just cause for disciplinary

action by the church board. Without limiting the generality of the forgoing, among such causes for action shall be:

- a. Any moral failure involving sexual misconduct or sexual deviation (including, but not limited to adultery, homosexuality, incest, sexual assault, pornography, and improper contact with the opposite sex).
- b. Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct or any conduct unbecoming to a church member (including, but not limited to deception, fraud, theft, and assault).
- c. Any act or action of a church member which is the cause of serious discord or dissension, with or without malicious intent, (Romans 16:17,18; Proverbs 6:19).
- d. The propagation of doctrines and practices contrary to those set forth in the Statement of Fundamental and Essential Truths of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

3. Initiative

a. Authority

Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with church members who have reached the place where, in the opinion of the church board, endorsement can no longer be given. The church board, which has the authority to approve church membership, also has the right to withdraw their approval and to terminate church membership.

b. Board Responsibility

The church board is responsible to deal with allegations of misconduct according to this Constitution and By-Laws.

In the event that the Church Board finds itself compromised in any manner, or appearing to lack impartiality, it shall have the right to appoint a substitute committee to hear charges against a church member.

4. Statement of Conduct

Should a church member admit to, or confess to a wrongdoing or misconduct to the board, such as should require disciplinary action, then the board shall exercise discretion as to the appropriate form of discipline.

5. Reports, Rumors or Complaints

Should there be reports, rumors or complaints, written or unwritten, which appear to be persistent, serious, becoming publicly known and posing a detriment to the testimony of the individual or church, then the pastor shall use his judgment to discuss the matter with the member being accused, always in the presence of a member of the board. The pastor and board member shall exercise their discretion as to whether or not to commence an official investigation.

6. Investigation of Reports or Complaints of Alleged Violations

Written and signed allegations of violations under Section 6B2 "Causes of Disciplinary Action" by a church member shall be investigated. The Senior Pastor shall appoint two members of the board to investigate the allegation, having in mind that it is their responsibility to safeguard the member, the church, and the Fellowship. This shall be done to determine the credibility of the allegation.

- a. Signed written allegations shall be filed with the Senior Pastor and/or a member of the church board, by the complainant(s) describing the alleged violations.
- b. The persons making the allegation shall be interviewed in order to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the allegation.
- c. The accused Church member shall be given an opportunity to be interviewed to discuss the allegation.
- d. Should a church member, when presented with the allegations, acknowledge a wrong doing that requires disciplinary action, then the Senior Pastor or his designate shall report the acknowledgment of wrong doing to the church board who shall initiate appropriate disciplinary action and a restoration program.
- e. Should the church member deny the allegations made, the investigators shall determine if the evidence merits a disciplinary hearing.
- f. Where an accused church member serves in a leadership capacity in the local church, such

ministry may be restricted during the investigation at the discretion of the Senior Pastor.

7. Legal Charges

a. Where a church member has been legally charged under the Criminal Code:

- i. No disciplinary procedures will be followed until the legal proceedings, including appeal, have run their course.
- ii. Continuing involvement in church leadership may be subject to restriction during the time of the legal proceedings at the discretion of the church board.
- iii. A guilty verdict of a church member following the legal proceedings, including appeal, shall automatically precipitate disciplinary procedures by the church board.
- iv. Church members may be eligible for participation in a restoration program upon request for reconciliation.

b. Should the allegations against the church member be one that is a violation that must be reported, by law (including, but not limited to, offenses against minors). The church board, shall report the accused to the appropriate legal authorities, and delay their own investigation, until the appropriate legal authorities have opportunity to investigate.

8. Preparation and Filing of Charges

Allegations shall only be investigated when they have been made in writing, dated and signed by the complainant. If, after due investigation, it is determined that a disciplinary hearing should occur, charges should be filed with the church board.

The person against whom charges have been filed shall be informed by double registered mail of the charges at least fifteen (15) days before being called to appear before the church board for a disciplinary hearing. The hearing shall take place within 40 days of formal charges being delivered to the church member, or the entire proceeding shall be rescinded. A copy of the charges shall be sent to the District Superintendent.

The said church member may be relieved immediately from his church involvement upon being notified of the charges.

9. Disposition of Allegations

- a. If written allegations are made and signed, but the investigators conclude under the guidelines of the Local Church Constitution that no reason exists for a hearing, then the matter shall be dropped.
- b. The Senior Pastor, or his appointee, may seek to counsel all parties involved and to bring to an end any continuation of rumors or conflicts related to the matter.
- c. The complainant shall be informed in writing that the investigation has been concluded and the allegations dismissed.
- d. There shall be no record of the investigation kept.
- e. The church member shall be informed in writing that the investigation of the allegations has concluded and no charges have been laid.

10. Disciplinary Hearing

In the event the investigators find the charges merit a hearing they shall request the Senior Pastor to arrange for a disciplinary hearing by the church board for the accused church member. The church member shall be requested to appear at the hearing.

To ensure the ability of the hearing committee to render an impartial judgment, no member of the board of the local church may sit on the hearing committee when they have been party to the details of the investigation or any event or incident related to the alleged offense.

The Senior Pastor may attend the hearing as an observer but shall not participate nor be present when a vote is taken in the decision as to guilt or innocence. His role is to be redemptive to all parties involved.

If the accused church member refuses to appear at the hearing to offer a defense, the hearing will proceed, and the accused member may be disciplined if found guilty of the charges preferred.

a. The chair

A member of the hearing committee shall be appointed by the Senior Pastor to serve as chairman.

The chairman of the hearing committee along with the Senior Pastor shall prepare an agenda and arrange for all matters of the hearing.

The chairman shall appoint a recording secretary from the membership of the hearing committee.

b. The role of investigators

- i. The investigators shall bring a report to the hearing and offer evidence as discovered during the investigation procedures.
- ii. They shall not participate nor be present when a vote is taken in the decision as to guilt or innocence.
- iii. No evidence or comment regarding the evidence shall be given by the investigators or accusers in the absence of the accused church member, unless he has failed to, or has refused to, appear at the hearing.

c. Church Member's Support

The church member accused shall have the right to have a member of this local church present for support but not as an active participant in the hearing process. The supporting person may be the spouse of the accused church member.

Legal counsel shall not be present for either side at the hearing.

d. The agenda and proceedings shall provide sufficient opportunity for the complainant and complaine to speak, offer evidence, cross-examine, present witnesses, and to make a summation statement. It will be the role of the hearing committee to question and make inquiry of the participants and to seek to have all the facts, evidence and testimony duly presented and examined to ensure an objective decision.

e. The verdict shall be made by secret ballot in the absence of investigators, the complainant and their supporting member if present and the complaine. A two-thirds majority vote shall be required to determine guilt.

f. If it has been determined that guilt has been established, discipline shall be administered prayerfully and in the fear of God, in accordance with the Scriptures and as set forth in this Constitution and By-Laws.

g. Announcement of the verdict

- i. The verdict shall be communicated to the Senior Pastor and placed in the minutes of the local church board. If the verdict is one of guilt, then the minutes of the hearing and any other relevant documents shall be maintained in a confidential file until the disciplinary process has been completed.
- ii. The Senior Pastor shall communicate the verdict in writing to the church member and the complainant within 5 days of the decision of the hearing committee.
- iii. If a guilty verdict is reached, the church member shall be informed in writing of the right and process of appeal.
- iv. If the verdict is one of not guilty, then no record of the hearing shall be maintained.

11. Discipline

A Church Member who has been found guilty of violating or who has confessed in writing to having violated any of the principles set forth in this Constitution and By-Laws, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the church board. Said discipline shall be administered in brotherly love and kindness. The

Church Board shall weigh decisions on the basis of the offense itself.

A church member who has confessed to, or been found guilty of, the charges might have their membership placed on probation, or suspended.

A church member who refuses to enter the restoration program and does not complete the same shall have their membership terminated.

12. Right of Appeal

The church member shall have the right of appeal. The purpose of the appeal is to examine the process and the judgment rendered.

Any appeal of the decision by the hearing committee must be made in writing within thirty (30) days of receiving the decision of the committee to the secretary of the church board. The board shall request the district superintendent to appoint a committee to hear the appeal.

The appeal will be heard within sixty (60) days of receiving the request for an appeal in writing.

The accused person will be present at this appeal, but if he neglects or refuses to attend the hearing, it may proceed in his absence. The decision of this appeal board will be final.

The chairman of the appeal committee will communicate the decision of the appeal committee in writing to the church member within five days of the appeal hearing.

Legal counsel shall not be present for either side at the appeal hearing, nor in any other investigative or disciplinary hearing provided for in these by-laws.

13. Restoration

In the event a church member who has been found guilty of an offense shows repentance and indicates a desire for continued fellowship with the local assembly, the board shall determine an appropriate restoration program which would have in view the completion of a suspension period or the reinstatement of membership as applicable.

The program of restoration shall be administered in brotherly love and kindness.

The restoration program may include limitations of ministry involvement during the term of restoration.

14. Reinstatement of Membership

Persons who have had their membership suspended and have successfully completed the restoration program may apply for reinstatement of membership by communicating their request to the secretary of the church board.

SECTION 7 - WAIVER OF CLAIM

Notwithstanding the provision herein before contained, Certificates of Membership of this Church shall be issued upon the condition that suspension of the member, and withdrawal of the Certificate of Membership in the manner herein provided, shall not give the suspended member cause for legal action against the Pastor or any member taking part in the suspension proceedings and the acceptance shall be evidence of a waiver by the member of all rights of action, causes of action, and all claims and demands against this Church, or any member or officers of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, by virtue of suspension proceedings and withdrawal of the Certificates of Membership of Fellowship in this Church under the foregoing provision.

BY-LAW IV - OFFICERS

SECTION 1

The officers of this church shall be a Pastor, a Secretary-Treasurer, Church Board Members, and such other officers as may be determined by the Church Board from time to time. All elected officers shall be required to hold church membership and support the Assembly with tithes and offerings. The office of Secretary-Treasurer may be separated into the offices of Secretary and Treasurer and separate persons may hold such offices.

SECTION 2 - THE PASTOR: APPOINTMENT AND CALL

- A. The Church Board shall submit nominations for Pastor to the church congregation after consultation with the District Superintendent.
- B. The Pastor must be one who holds Credentials with The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, the Assemblies of God or one whom the British Columbia District Executive Officers of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada approve.
- C. A call shall be extended to a Pastor when he receives a two-thirds majority vote of the ballots cast at a congregational meeting duly convened for that purpose.
- D. The Pastor shall be considered the spiritual overseer of the Assembly and shall direct all of its activities. He shall arrange for all special meetings, missionary conventions, or evangelistic crusades. He shall act as chairman of all the business meetings of the Assembly, and of the Church Board. He shall be ex officio, a member of all committees and departments. He shall provide for all the services of the Assembly, and no person shall be invited to speak or preach in the Assembly, without his approval. No congregational or Church Board meeting shall be held in his absence, without his written authorization.
- E. Resignation: The Pastor may resign by giving one month's written notice to the Church Board by a letter addressed to the Secretary of the Board. He must also immediately notify the District Superintendent of his resignation.
- F. Vacancy: When the pastorate becomes vacant, the District Superintendent or his authorized representative, shall be empowered to act in the full legal capacity of the pastor in consultation with the Church Board, and he shall arrange to supply the pulpit with suitable ministry until such time as a new Pastor has been duly installed.
- G. Removal: The Pastor may be removed in the following manner:
 - 1. When difficulties have arisen between the Pastor and the Assembly which do not involve his credentials but only his position as Pastor and which apparently cannot be resolved at the local level, the Pastor, the Church Board or a quorum consisting of not fewer than one-third of the regular members of the Assembly, shall have the right to appeal to the District Executive. The refusal of a Pastor to call a meeting of the Church Board to discuss the problem, when requested by a majority of the Board, shall constitute the Board's right to appeal to the District Executive. If a satisfactory settlement cannot be reached, the District Superintendent shall call a Congregational Meeting, to be presided over by himself or his authorized representative. The chairman may call for a vote of confidence in the pastor. The roster for the vote shall include only those members who held membership 60 days prior to the vote of confidence and shall exclude the pastor and members of the pastoral staff, and their spouses, who shall not be included in the quorum necessary to have a congregational meeting. The vote shall require a simple majority in support of the pastor for him to retain his position as pastor. If such is not achieved, the pastor's duties shall be terminated immediately, and he shall be given a minimum of one month's salary but not more than three month's salary with benefits and the use of the parsonage during that period, or the regular housing allowance if he is not living in the church parsonage. If he has served for a period of a minimum of two years and has failed to receive the required majority in the confidence vote, or has complied with a request from the board to resign, he shall be given a maximum of three month's salary with benefits and the use of the parsonage during that period, or the equivalent housing allowance if he is not living in the church parsonage.
 - 2. Charges in matters involving his right to hold Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada Credentials, his morality, integrity or doctrinal soundness must be made to the District Executive in writing, and properly signed by one who is willing to appear in person and give testimony concerning the charges. Charges thus preferred against a Minister shall be dealt with according to provisions made in the District Constitution, Article 6, Section 4.

SECTION 3

There shall be provision for the appointment of additional ministers in the Church. These ministers are to be appointed by the Pastor and Church Board. The Pastor and Church Board shall define the offices and positions of seniority of such additional ministers.

SECTION 4 - THE CHURCH BOARD

- A. The Church Board shall consist of the Pastor and up to seven but not fewer than five Board Members. (If more, the exact number and the resolution authorizing the same must be duly recorded in the church minutes). The lay members of the Board shall be elected in accordance with the resolution of the Church. The Pastor shall act as chairman of this board. Where no Pastor holds appointment, the Board may elect one of its members to act as coordinator.
- B. Qualifications: The official board shall be comprised of members whose qualifications for service on the board are determined, guided by such scriptural provisions for deacons as are cited in Acts 6:3 and I Timothy 3:8-13, and approved in accordance with the policy of this assembly.
- C. Duties: The Church Board is chosen to serve the Church, and therefore, shall act in an administrative capacity with the Pastor in matters pertaining to the Assembly and its spiritual life and financial affairs. They shall assist in the ministry of its ordinances and shall act in the examination of applications for membership, and also in the administration of the discipline of the Assembly. They shall appoint a recording secretary from among their members to record the minutes of their meetings. A majority present in any meeting of the Church Board shall constitute a quorum, provided that all members have been notified to be present. It shall be the duty of the Church Board to see that the Pastor and any employees of the Church are adequately remunerated, taking into consideration the cost of living and the Assembly's financial ability. An annual salary review shall be made. A majority of the Church Board shall have the right to ask the Pastor to convene an official Board meeting. Where there is need for trustees, the church Board shall appoint its members to act in that capacity. The Church Board with the Pastor shall meet monthly but not less than 10 times per year for the transaction of the routine business for the Assembly, the time and place to be announced by the Pastor.
- D. Term of Office:
 - 1. The term of office of all lay members of the Church Board shall be for two years. After a member has served for six consecutive years, he will not be considered eligible for re-election for a period of one year.
 - 2. Termination of membership on the board shall occur if any Board member, during the term of his office shall resign, move away, cease to be a member of the congregation or be disqualified according to by-law 3, section 6, Paragraph (b) of these By-Laws. In any such case the remaining members of the Board may appoint a successor until the next Annual Congregational Business meeting. A Board member may be removed from office by a special resolution of the membership of the Congregation and another Board member may be elected or, by ordinary resolution, appointed to serve the balance of the term.
- E. Conflict of Interest:

No board member shall place himself in a position where there is conflict of interest between his duties as a board member and his other interests. Every board member who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in, or may become interested in, an existing or proposed contract, transaction, or arrangement with the church or who otherwise has a conflict of interest by virtue of involvement of a member of his family or the involvement of his employer, partner, business associate, or a corporation that the member is involved with as either a director, shareholder, officer, employee, or agent, then such board member shall declare his conflict of interest fully at a meeting of the board and withdraw from any discussion or vote. The pastor who serves as a member of the board, or any member who serves as staff shall absent themselves from a board meeting when his/her salary and allowance review is being considered.
- F. Remuneration

A board member shall not be remunerated for being or acting as a board member, but a board member shall be reimbursed for all expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred while engaged in the affairs of the society.

SECTION 5 - SECRETARY-TREASURER

- A. Qualifications - He shall be one capable of performing such clerical duties as his office requires, and shall be appointed annually by the Church Board, and may be one of its own members. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be filled by the same person, who may or may not be a member of the church board.
- B. Duties - The Board Secretary. - The Board Secretary shall be the custodian of the records of the various congregational and board meetings and shall record the same in record books proved for that purpose. He shall preserve the records of the church and prepare reports as directed by the church board.
- C. Duties - The Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the general funds of the Church, and these shall be deposited in a chartered bank in the name of the Church, and shall disburse such funds as authorized by the Church Board. He shall keep an accurate record of accounts. He shall present a financial statement at the annual Congregational meeting and at any other time when requested to do so by the Church Board. His books shall be reviewed before the Annual Congregational Meeting by a person or persons appointed by the church Board.

D. BY-LAW V - ELECTIONS AND BUSINESS MEETINGS

SECTION 1 - THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Congregational Business Meeting shall be held on or before the end of February of each year. The Annual Congregational Business Meeting shall be announced in the public services on two consecutive Sundays (14 days) immediately prior to the said Congregational Business Meeting. In addition to the verbal notice, written notice of the general meeting shall be given to all members in good standing, at least 14 days prior to the meeting. The fiscal year shall end at December 31st.

SECTION 2 - SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS may be called by:

- A. The Pastor after consultation with the Board.
- B. The Secretary of the Church Board upon written order of a majority of the Church Board after consultation with the Pastor.
- C. By letter signed by 10% or more of the voting members of the congregation. This letter must be addressed to the Pastor or Secretary of the Board.

Notice, purpose and date of such meeting shall be announced in one service on two consecutive Sundays (14 days) immediately prior to date of said meeting. In addition to the verbal notice, written notice of the special business meeting shall be given to all members in good standing, at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

SECTION 3 – AGENDA

The pastor and church board shall prepare the agenda. A member of the congregation in good standing may submit an agenda item to the board. It must be in writing, signed and in the possession of the board at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

SECTION 4 - NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- A. The nominating committee shall be comprised of the Pastor and church board, or a committee appointed by the church board, which shall be comprised of the pastor, one board member and three non-board members.
- B. The nominated committee, after its appointment, shall invite nominations from members of the congregation, and the slate of nominations will remain open until fourteen days prior to the annual meeting, or longer period as approved by resolution of the membership and recorded in minutes of the congregation. The nominations shall be in writing, signed by the nominator, and submitted without the knowledge of the nominee.
- C. It shall be the duty of the nominated committee to receive nominations for each office to be filled and, after determining if such individuals are qualified and willing to serve, shall present their names for consideration at the congregational business meeting.

SECTION 5 - VOTING

All the elected officers of this church, except the Pastor, shall be declared elected upon receiving more than 50 per cent of all votes cast for the office at the Annual Congregational Business Meeting. If the candidate is not elected on the first ballot, voting shall continue until an election is declared. If no election is declared as a result of the second election ballot, the name receiving the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated on each

succeeding ballot.

Each member in good standing is entitled to one vote. Voting for elective officers shall be by secret ballot but in all other matters may be by show of hands. Provision may be made for an advance poll for members who, in the opinion of the Church Board, will be legitimately absent.

When the Church Congregation is voting on business matters, a definite voting bar shall be made between those who are entitled to vote and those who are not so entitled. A member of the congregation wishing to challenge the right of another to vote may do so. In the event of such a challenge, the church membership list shall be taken as conclusive proof as to whether a member is in good standing and entitled to vote.

SECTION 6 - APPOINTED OFFICES

It shall be the duty of the newly elected Church Board to fill all appointed offices for the ensuing year with out delay.

SECTION 7 - ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business for the Annual Meeting of this Assembly may be as follows:

1. Devotional
2. Reading of previous minutes by the Secretary.
3. Report of the Treasurer.
4. Report of Committees.
5. Unfinished Business.
6. Election of Officers.
7. New Business.
8. Adjournment.

SECTION 8 - QUORUM

Forty per cent of the voting membership shall be required to constitute a quorum, but this number shall never be less than 3 members.

Those members who by reasons of health are unable to regularly attend church meetings may be omitted from the quorum calculation.

SECTION 9 – PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

In order to expedite congregational business meetings Ladner Christian Fellowship Society shall be governed by the spirit of Christian love and fellowship, and by the accepted rules of parliamentary procedure as outlined in “Roberts Rules of Order”.

BY-LAW VI - PROPERTY

All real estate owned by this Church shall be held in its corporate (registered) name, Ladner Christian Fellowship Society.

The of acquiring and disposing of any real property of this local Church, the Board is empowered to negotiate on behalf of the Church. The actual acquisition or disposal of real property will be decided by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of the congregation at a duly called Annual Business Meeting or a Special Business Meeting subject to by-law V, Section 1 and 2.

BY-LAW VII - BORROWING POWERS

SECTION 1 - CHURCH BOARD

For the purpose of carrying out it's objectives, the Church Board may borrow or raise or secure payment of money up to an amount but not exceeding 5 per cent of the previous year's receipts. Any amount to be borrowed above 5 per cent of the previous year's receipts must be approved by resolution of the membership.

SECTION 2 – CHURCH

- A. This church, prior to the making of application for loan from any source or incurring indebtedness on a purchase plan or otherwise when repayment is not to be made in full within 12 months of the date of the intended loan or where the intended indebtedness, together with all other indebtedness of the said

church, in the aggregate will exceed ten per cent of the total amount of the previous year's gross revenues, then the church shall consult with and obtain the approval of the district executive before proceeding with the requirements of subsection (b) hereof.

- B. This church shall then obtain the approval of its congregation to the proposed action by resolution, passed at a duly called special or regular congregational meeting.

The Board of Deacons shall have power to borrow, on behalf of the Church, money it deems necessary, provided a majority of the Church Board members are in agreement.

No debenture shall be raised without sanction of a special resolution.

BY-LAW VIII - DEPARTMENTS

All departments of this church shall be responsible to the pastor and the church board, and shall present annual reports to the annual congregational meeting. Their terms of office (election or appointment) and responsibilities shall be outlined by the Pastor and Board as required in consultation with the departments concerned.

BY-LAW IX - MEETINGS

SECTION 1

Regular Church Services - The time and place of the regular Church services shall be determined by the Pastor and Board.

SECTION 2

No member or any number of members shall call any private, secret, business or devotional meetings without the knowledge and consent of the board and the pastor.

BY-LAW X - RESPONSIBILITIES OF AFFILIATION

SECTION 1

Accepting our responsibilities under the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ as stated in Matthew 28 and Mark 16, this Assembly shall support the Missionary program of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, and shall take one missionary offering each month for this purpose.

SECTION 2

The Pension Fund is a vital obligation of our Fellowship, in that it makes provision for our aged Missionaries and Ministers, their wives and children, and this congregation recognizes its responsibility to contribute regularly according to the recommendations of General Conference.

SECTION 3

Recognizing the important services rendered to this congregation by the international and district offices of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, this church therefore accepts the principles of supporting the administrative costs of the international and district offices.

This shall be done in accordance with the General Conference resolution that each local assembly forward an amount equal to 10 per cent of its general fund offerings (does not include missionary offerings, building fund, or any other special fund) to the district office at regular intervals to assist with administrative costs. From these funds the district will forward 10 per cent to the International Office for administrative costs.

SECTION 4

This Church assumes the responsibilities of paying the moving expenses of an incoming Pastor and the elected Pastor's expenses incidental to attending the district conference and to any district-sponsored convention held for the benefit of its ministers.

BY-LAW XI - AMENDMENTS - BY-LAWS

These by-laws may be altered or amended by special resolution, at any Annual Congregational Business Meeting of this Assembly, or at any special Congregational Business Meeting duly called for that specific purpose, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment has been presented in writing to the Church Board and to the district superintendent at least thirty days before the date of the Business Meeting, and providing that notice of said proposed amendment shall have been given in the announcements of the said Business Meeting.

A copy of the proposed amendment or amendments shall be available to any voting member between the time of announcement and the time of the Congregational Business Meeting, on application to the Secretary of the Board. An amendment, to be adopted, shall require a two-thirds majority vote. Any changes in by-laws shall come into effect upon their acceptance by the Registrar of Companies.

BY-LAW XII – NON-PROFIT CLAUSE

The activities of self-governing assemblies shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members, and any profits of other accretions to the organization shall be used solely to promote its objectives, in accordance with its constitution and by-laws or as the same may be hereafter modified or amended.

BY-LAW XIII

Dissolution Clause:

In the event of dissolution or winding up of the organization, all its remaining assets after payment of liabilities shall be distributed to the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada for its continuing ministries.

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL AND ESSENTIAL TRUTHS

PREAMBLE

The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada stands firmly in the mainstream of historical Christianity. It takes the Bible as its all-sufficient source of faith and practice, and subscribes to the historic creeds of the universal church. In common with historical, evangelical Christianity, it emphasizes Christ as Saviour and Coming King. It also presents Christ as Healer and it adopts the distinctive position that speaking in tongues is the initial evidence when Christ baptizes in the Holy Spirit. (See Section VI, 3).

I. HOLY SCRIPTURES

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God¹ by which we understand the whole Bible to be inspired in the sense that holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the very words of Scripture.² Divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the original writings. The whole Bible in the original is, therefore, without error and as such is infallible, absolutely supreme and sufficient in authority in all matters of faith and practice.³

The Bible does not simply contain the Word of God, but is in reality the complete revelation and very Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit. Christian believers today receive spiritual illumination to enable them to understand the Scriptures⁴, but God does not grant new revelations, which are contrary, or additional to inspired biblical truth.⁵

II. THE GODHEAD

The Godhead exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having the same nature and attributes and are worthy of the same homage, confidence and obedience.⁶

1. 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.⁷

2. THE SON

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal and only Begotten Son of the Father, is true God and true man.⁸ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,⁹ and by His sinless life, miracles and teaching, gave full revelation of the Father.¹⁰

He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice.¹¹ He rose from the dead.¹² He is now at the right hand of the majesty on high as our great High Priest.¹³ He will come again to establish

¹ II Tim. 3:16, 17

² II Peter 1:20, 21

³ Psa. 119:160a., Matt 5:17, 18

⁴ I Cor. 2:12-14

⁵ Prov. 30:5, 6

⁶ Matt. 3:16, Matt. 28:19, II Cor. 13:14

⁷ Gen. 1:1, I Cor. 15:28

⁸ John 1:1, 14, Phil. 2:6, 7, John 10:30, Heb. 1:8, John 17

⁹ Luke 11:26-35

¹⁰ II Cor. 5:21, Heb. 7:26, Acts 2:22, John 12:49

¹¹ I Peter 3:18, Rom. 5:6, 8, I Cor. 15:3

¹² Matt. 28:6, I Cor. 15:4, 20

¹³ Acts 1:9-11, Acts 2:33, Heb. 8:1

His kingdom in righteousness and peace.¹⁴

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is also God, performing actions and possessing the attributes of Deity.¹⁵ His personality is shown by the fact that He has personal characteristics and that individuals may relate to Him as a person.¹⁶

III. ANGELS

1. CLASSIFICATION

Angels were created as intelligent and powerful beings to do the will of God and worship Him.¹⁷ However, Satan, the originator of sin, fell through pride and was followed by those angels who rebelled against God. These fallen angels or demons are active in opposing the purposes of God.¹⁸ Those who remained faithful continue before the throne of God and serve as ministering spirits.¹⁹

2. THE BELIEVER AND DEMONS

Demons attempt to thwart God's purposes. However, in Christ the believer may have complete liberty from the influence of demons.²⁰ They cannot possess him because his body is the temple of the Holy Spirit in which Christ dwells as Lord.²¹

IV. MAN

Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God.²² He fell through sin and as a consequence, incurred both spiritual and physical death.²³ Spiritual death and the depravity of human nature have been transmitted to the entire human race²⁴ with the exception of the Man Christ Jesus.²⁵ Man can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.²⁶

V. SALVATION

1. ATONEMENT OF CHRIST

Salvation has been provided for all men through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross.²⁷ It is the only perfect redemption and substitutionary atonement for all the sins of the world, both original and actual. His atoning work has been proven by His resurrection from the dead.²⁸ Those who repent and believe in Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and receive eternal life.²⁹ Furthermore, in the atonement, divine healing was provided for all believers.³⁰

2. REPENTANCE AND FAITH

¹⁴ Matt. 25:31

¹⁵ Acts 5:3, 4

¹⁶ John 16:13-14

¹⁷ Psa. 103:20, Rev. 5:11, 12

¹⁸ Isa. 14:12-17, Ezek. 28:11-19, I Tim. 4:1, Eph. 6:11, 12, Jude 6

¹⁹ Heb. 1:14

²⁰ Heb. 2:14, I John 3:8, I John 4:1-4

²¹ I Cor. 6:19, 20, Matt. 6:24

²² Gen 1:26, Gen. 2:7

²³ Rom. 5:12, James 1:14, 15

²⁴ Rom. 3:10-19, 23, Jer. 17:0

²⁵ Heb. 7:26

²⁶ Acts 4:12, John 14:6, I Tim. 2:5, 6

²⁷ Isa. 53:3-6, John 12:32, 33, I Peter 2:24

²⁸ Rom. 4:25, I John 2:2, Heb. 10-12, I Cor. 15:14, 17, 20, Acts 2:36

²⁹ Acts 20:21, I Pet. 1:23, 25

³⁰ Isa. 53:4, 5, Matt. 8:16b, 17

Man can only be born again through faith in Christ. Repentance, a vital part of believing, is a complete change of mind wrought by the Holy Spirit,³¹ turning to God from sin.

3. REGENERATION

Regeneration is a creative work of the Holy Spirit by which man is born again and receives spiritual life.³²

4. JUSTIFICATION

Justification is a judicial act of God by which the sinner is declared righteous solely on the basis of his acceptance of Christ as Saviour.³³

VI. THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

1. ASSURANCE

Assurance of salvation is the privilege of all that are born again by the Spirit through faith in Christ,³⁴ resulting in love, gratitude and obedience toward God.³⁵

2. SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is dedication to God and separation from evil.³⁶ In experience it is both instantaneous³⁷ and progressive.³⁸ It is produced in the life of the believer by his appropriation of the power of Christ's blood and risen life through the Person of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ He draws the believer's attention to Christ, teaches him through the Word and produces the character of Christ within him.⁴⁰ Believers who sin must repent and seek forgiveness through faith in the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ.⁴¹

3. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience in which the believer yields control of himself to the Holy Spirit.⁴² Through this he comes to know Christ in a more intimate way,⁴³ and receives power to witness and grow spiritually.⁴⁴ Believers should earnestly seek the Baptism in the Holy Spirit according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁴⁵ The initial evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.⁴⁶ This experience is distinct from, and subsequent to the experience of the new birth.⁴⁷

4. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural abilities given by God through the exercising of which believers are enabled to minister effectively and directly in particular situations.⁴⁸ They serve the dual function of

³¹ Gal. 3:22, 26, Eph. 2:8, I John 5:10-13, Isa. 55:7, Acts 17:30

³² I Pet. 1:23, I Cor. 5:17, 18a, John 3:3b, 5b, 7

³³ Rom. 4:3-5, Rom. 3:24, Rom. 5:1-2

³⁴ John 10:27-29, Rom. 8:35-39

³⁵ John 14:23, Col. 3:17, I John 2:6

³⁶ II Cor. 6:14, II Cor. 7:1

³⁷ Heb. 10:10, John 17:17, 19

³⁸ I Peter 1:14-16, I Thess. 5:23, II Tim. 2:19-22

³⁹ Rom. 6:11, 13, 14, 18

⁴⁰ II Pet. 1:3-4, Gal. 5:22, 23, I Cor. 13

⁴¹ I John 1:9, I John 2:1-2

⁴² Matt. 3:11, Acts 1:5, Eph. 5:18

⁴³ John 16:13-15

⁴⁴ Acts 1:8, II Cor. 3:18

⁴⁵ Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4,8

⁴⁶ Acts 2:1-4, 39, Acts 9:17, I Cor. 14:18

⁴⁷ Acts 8:12-17, Acts 10:44-46

⁴⁸ I Cor. 12:4-11

building up the Church and of demonstrating the presence of God within His Church.⁴⁹

5. DIVINE HEALING

Divine Healing provided in the atonement of Christ⁵⁰ is the privilege of all believers. Prayer for the sick and gifts of healing are encouraged and practiced.⁵¹

VII. THE CHURCH

1. THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

All who are born again are members of the universal church, which is the body, and bride of Christ.⁵²

2. THE LOCAL CHURCH

A. Purpose

The local church is a body of believers in Christ who have joined together to function as a part of the universal church.⁵³ The local church is ordained by God and provides a context in which believers corporately worship God,⁵⁴ observe the ordinances of the church, are instructed in the faith and are equipped for the evangelization of the world.⁵⁵

B. Ordinances

a. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbol, memorial and proclamation of the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. This ordinance of communion is to be participated in by believers until Christ's return.⁵⁶

b. Water Baptism

Water Baptism signifies the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and is practiced by immersion.⁵⁷

C. Ministry

A divinely called and ordained ministry is the provision of the Lord to give leadership to the church as it fulfills its purposes.⁵⁸

VIII. THE END OF TIME

1. THE PRESENT STATE OF THE DEAD

At death the souls of the believers pass immediately into the presence of Christ,⁵⁹ and these remain in constant bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body.⁶⁰

The souls of the unbelievers remain after death conscious of condemnation⁶¹ until the final bodily resurrection and judgment of the unjust.⁶²

2. THE RAPTURE

⁴⁹ I Cor. 12:7, I Cor. 14:12, I Cor. 14:24-25

⁵⁰ Matt. 8:16-17

⁵¹ James 5:14, I Cor. 12:28-30

⁵² I Tim. 3:15, I Cor. 12:13, Eph. 5:25b, Col. 1:18

⁵³ I Cor. 16:19, Acts 14:23

⁵⁴ Acts 20:7, John 4:23

⁵⁵ II Tim. 2:2, I Pet. 5:2, Acts 11:19-24, Acts 1:8

⁵⁶ I Cor. 11:23-26, I Cor. 10:16-17, Matt. 26:26-28

⁵⁷ Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:38, 41, Acts 8:36-39, Rom. 6:3-5

⁵⁸ Acts 6:2b-4c, Acts 13:2-4a, Acts 14:23, Eph. 4:8, 11-13

⁵⁹ II Cor. 5:8, Phil. 1:21, 23-24

⁶⁰ II Cor. 5:1, 4b, I Cor. 15:42-44, Rom. 8:22-23

⁶¹ Luke 16:22-31, John 3:36

⁶² II Thess. 1:7-10, Rev. 20:11-15, Dan. 12:2, John 5:28-29

The rapture, the blessed hope of the church, is the imminent 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. This event takes place before the wrath of God is poured out during the tribulation. Believers then will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged according to faithfulness in Christian service.^{63 64}

3. THE TRIBULATION

The tribulation will be a time of judgment on the whole earth. During this period the Antichrist will emerge to offer false hope to the nations.^{65 66 67}

4. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The return of Christ to earth in power and great glory will conclude the great tribulation with the victory at Armageddon,⁶⁸ the defeat of antichrist and the binding of Satan.⁶⁹ He will introduce the millennial age,⁷⁰ restore Israel to her own land, lift the curse which now rests upon the whole creation, and bring the whole world to the knowledge of God.⁷¹

5. THE FINAL JUDGMENT

There will be a final judgment in which the unbelieving dead will be raised and judged at the great white throne, according to their works.⁷²

The beast and false prophet, the devil and his angels, and whoever is not found in the Book of Life shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to annihilation but to everlasting punishment, which is the second death.⁷³

6. THE ETERNAL STATE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The righteous will share the glory of God in the new heaven and the new earth for eternity.⁷⁴

⁶³ I Thess. 4:13-18, I Cor. 15:51-57, Titus 2:13, Phil 3:20-21

⁶⁴ Rom. 14:10-12, II Cor. 5:9-10, I Cor. 3:11-15

⁶⁵ I Thess. 5:1-3, 9-10, II Thess. 2:-12, Dan. 9:24-27, Matt. 24:15, 21-22

⁶⁶ Rev. 3:10, I Thess. 1:9, I Thess. 5:9-10, I Thess 4:16-17, John 14:1-3

⁶⁷ Jer. 30:7, Rev. 13:11-18, Matt. 24:15-16, 21, II Thess. 2:3b, 4, 8-12

⁶⁸ Matt. 24:27, 30, Luke 17:24, 26-30, Rev. 1:7 Rev. 11:15b, Col. 3:4

⁶⁹ Rev. 16:12-16, Rev. 17:8, 12-14, Rev. 19:11 - 20:3

⁷⁰ Rev. 20:6, Luke 22:29-30, Dan. 2:44-45, Psa. 2:6-12, Rev. 3:21

⁷¹ Isa. 1:24-27, Isa. 2:1-4, Zech. 14:3, 4, 9, Rev. 22:3, Rom. 8:19-23

⁷² John 12:48, Rom. 2:2, 6, 11, 16, Dan. 7:9-10, Rev. 14:9-11, Rev. 20:11-15

⁷³ Rev. 20:10, 15, Matt. 25:41b, Jude 6, Rev. 21:8

⁷⁴ Matt. 13:43, John 17:24, II Pet. 3:13, Heb. 11:10, Rev. 21:1-2, Rev. 21:10, 22-23

POSITION AND PRACTICES

A. MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Marriage is a provision of God whereby a man and a woman enter into a lifelong relationship through a marriage ceremony, which is recognized by the church and legally sanctioned, by the state.

Marriage establishes a "one-flesh" relationship, which goes beyond a physical union and is more than either a temporary relationship of convenience intended to provide personal pleasure or a contract, which binds two people together in a legal partnership. Marriage establishes an emotional and spiritual oneness, which enables both partners to respond to the spiritual, physical and social needs of the other. It provides the Biblical context for the procreation of children.

Marriage is to be an exclusive relationship that is maintained in purity. It is intended by God to be a permanent relationship. It is a witness to the world of the relationship between Christ and His Church.

Marriage requires a commitment of love, perseverance and faith. Because of its sanctity and permanence, marriage should be treated with seriousness and entered into only after counsel and prayer for God's guidance. Christians should marry only those who are believers. An individual who becomes a believer after marriage should remain with his or her partner in peace, and should give witness to the gospel in the home.

The Bible holds family life as a position of trust and responsibility. The home is a stabilizing force in society, a place of nurture, counsel, and safety for children.

Marriage can only be broken by "porneia" which is understood as marital unfaithfulness involving adultery, homosexuality, or incest. While the Scriptures give evidence that the marriage vow and "one-flesh" union are broken by such acts, and therefore do recognize the breaking of the marriage relationship, the Scriptures do recommend that the most desirable option would be reconciliation.

B. DIVORCE

We believe that divorce is not God's intention. It is God's concession to the "hardness of men's hearts."

We, therefore, discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. Our objective is reconciliation and the healing of the marriage union where possible.

Marital unfaithfulness should not be considered so much an occasion or opportunity for divorce but rather an opportunity for Christian grace, forgiveness, and restoration.

Divorce in our society is a termination of a marriage through a legal process authorized by the State. While the Church recognizes this legal process as an appropriate means to facilitate the permanent separation of spouses, the Church restricts the idea of divorce, in the sense of dissolution of marriage, to reasons specified by the Scriptures.

The weight of the Biblical record is negative and the explicit statement is made, "God hates divorce." Divorce is more than an action of the courts, which breaks the legal contract between the partners in a marriage. It is also the fracture of a unique human relationship between a male and a female. Divorce has profound consequences for the children. Divorce is evidence of the sinful nature expressed in human failure. Jesus gives one explicit cause for the dissolution of marriage: "porneia" or marital unfaithfulness.

Where all attempts at reconciliation have failed and a divorce has been finalized, we extend Christ's love and compassion.

C. REMARRIAGE

Remarriage is the union, legally sanctioned by the state, of a man and woman, one or both of who have been previously married. It is regarded as acceptable by the Scriptures in the event of the death of the former spouse. It is also regarded as acceptable when there has been sexual immorality on the part of the former partner or the former partner has remarried.

D. TITHING

Tithing was divinely instituted by God under the Old Covenant and was compulsory upon the people who worshipped God. Under the new covenant we are not bound by arbitrary laws, but the principles of right and wrong, as expressed by the law, are fulfilled in the believer's life through Grace. Grace should produce as much as or more than law demanded. Regular systematic giving is clearly taught in the New Testament. It is known as the Grace of Giving. The gauge or rule of this systematic giving is defined in the Old Testament, known as the Law of Tithing. All Christians should conscientiously and systematically tithe their income to God.

WITNESS	APPLICANTS FOR INCORPORATION
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DATED: December 7, 2000

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