

Difference between LCC 2022 & 2024 - One-Page Handout

Summary of the 2024 PAOC Local Church Constitution & By-Laws Update

Purpose of the Update

The PAOC released a revised Local Church Constitution & By-Laws in 2024. Churches are encouraged to adopt the updated version to remain aligned with national and district standards, ensure legal compliance, and benefit from improved governance clarity.

Key Improvements in the 2024 Edition

1. Governance Flexibility Pastor's Council option is available
2. Strengthened Accountability
 - Expanded expectations for leadership qualifications and conduct.
 - Clearer processes for:
 - Pastoral oversight
 - Conflict resolution
 - Compensation and housing guidelines
 - Leadership responsibilities
3. Enhanced District Partnership
 - Constitutional amendments now require district approval before congregational voting.
 - Annual reports must be submitted to the district office.
 - Provides additional oversight and support during major decisions.
4. Administrative & Structural Updates
 - "Departments" replaced with "ministries" for greater flexibility.
 - Updated language around Spirit baptism.
 - More flexible missions offering requirements.

What Has Not Changed

- Core doctrinal commitments
- Membership expectations
- Pastoral qualifications
- Property regulations
- Discipline and restoration framework

The 2024 edition strengthens structure without altering theological identity.

Benefits for Our Church

- Aligns us with current PAOC national and district standards.
- Provides a governance model that fits our ministry context.
- Reduces ambiguity in leadership roles and processes.
- Modernizes our constitution for clarity and long-term stability.
- Supports healthier decision-making and smoother transitions.

Next Steps for Adoption

1. Select governance model (Elected Board or Pastor's Council).
2. Replace all [leadership] placeholders with chosen terminology.
3. Submit customized draft to the district office for approval.
4. After district approval, provide 14-day notice to congregation.
5. Hold congregational vote (requires 2/3 majority).

■ SECTION-BY-SECTION COMPARISON (full details)

2022 vs. 2024 PAOC Local Church Constitution & By-Laws

1. Front Matter & General Structure

2022

- Fully completed for Five Corners Pentecostal Church (names, signatures, city, adoption date).
- No customization options.

2024

- Provided as a template requiring:
 - Church name, city, adoption date.
 - Leadership signatures.
 - District participation.
- Includes a Checklist for adopting the constitution.
- Introduces the term [leadership] as a placeholder for either Board or Pastor's Council.

Key Change

➔ 2024 version is designed as a customizable template with governance options, whereas 2022 is a finalized document for a specific church.

2. Preamble

2022

- Identical wording except:
 - References BC Yukon District specifically.

2024

- Same wording except:
 - Removes district name (generic "district conference").

Key Change

➔ 2024 version is generalized for use in any district.

3. Article 1 — Name

2022

- Filled in: Five Corners Pentecostal Church.

2024

- Blank field to be completed.

4. Article 2 — Definition of Local Church

Content is nearly identical, except slight wording modernization.

5. Article 3 — Prerogatives

Nearly identical wording.

6. Article 4 — Tenets of Faith

Identical in both versions.

7. Article 5 — Ordinances & Practices

Differences

2022: “Prayer for the baptism with the Holy Spirit”

2024: “Prayer for Spirit baptism”

➔ Slight modernization of language.

Otherwise identical.

8. Article 6 — Membership

Identical wording.

9. Article 7 — Pastor & Governance Body

2024

- Vacancy and DS involvement wording slightly updated.

10. Article 8 — Business Meetings

Differences

- 2024 requires annual reports sent to district office.

11. Article 9 — Property

Identical except for minor formatting.

12. Article 10 — Departments / Ministries

2022

- Lists specific departments (Christian Education, Youth, Men’s, Women’s, Children’s).

2024

- Departments renamed to “Ministries”.

- No list of departments.

Key Change

➔ 2024 removes department list and uses broader “ministries” language.

13. Article 11 — Amendments

2022

- Requires:

- 30-day notice to Board & District Superintendent.

- No district approval required before congregational vote.

2024

- Requires:

- 60-day notice.

- District approval BEFORE congregational vote.

- Notice to congregation only after district approval.

Key Change

- 2024 significantly strengthens district oversight of amendments.

14. By-Law 1 — Membership

Identical.

15. By-Law 2 — Pastor & Governance Body

2024 adds:

- Expanded accountability section
- Expanded compensation details
- Vehicle allowance wording updated

Key Change

- 2024 significantly expands accountability structures.

16. By-Law 3 — Selection of Leadership

2024 adds:

- More detailed nomination rules.
- More detailed quorum rules.

Key Change

- 2024 introduces more details

17. By-Law 4 — Departments / Ministries

Identical except terminology.

18. By-Law 5 — Meetings

Identical except terminology.

19. By-Law 6 — Discipline & Restoration

Substantially the same, except:

2024 adds:

- More explicit wording about abuse prevention.
- Clarifies restrictions during investigations.
- Slightly expanded procedural details.

Key Change

- 2024 strengthens clarity and consistency but keeps the same structure.

20. By-Law 7 — Responsibilities & Privileges of Affiliation

Differences

- 2022: Missions offering “one per month.”
- 2024: Must “regularly receive offerings and remit contributions” (more flexible).
- 2024 adds:
 - More detailed pension requirements.

- More detailed financial oversight wording.

21. By-Law 8 — Amendments

2022

- 30-day notice.
- No district approval required before congregational vote.

2024

- 60-day notice.
- District approval required before congregational vote.
- Must follow Article 8.4 notice rules.

Key Change

- ➔ District oversight is significantly increased in 2024.

22. Statement of Essential Truths & Positions and Practices

2022 vs 2024

- Identical content, except:
- 2024 references the 2024 General Conference.
- Minor formatting differences.

Summary of the Most Significant Changes

1. District oversight

- Amendments now require district approval before congregational vote.
- Annual reports must be sent to district office.

2. Terminology modernization

- “Departments” → “Ministries”
- Updated language around Spirit baptism.

3. Expanded accountability & compensation details

- More detailed expectations for leadership behavior and responsibilities.