



EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY  
CHURCH OF CANADA

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## **Policy on Provisional Local Leadership Bodies (in particular Steering Committees)**

[Approved by the EMCC Board of Directors, March 23, 2007]

The provisions of the EMCC policy are the implementation of the intervention authority on the authority of the EMCC Articles of Goverances, section 2.6.2. as authorized by the EMCC General Assembly, May 7, 2005.

### **Policy Level 1: Local Leadership Bodies**

Every EMCC congregation shall be governed by a responsible body of leaders in keeping with EMCC polity and doctrine and the uses of the EMCC and for the purpose of meeting the fiduciary and legal responsibilities of a local church in Canada.

### ***Policy Level 2: Types of local governing bodies***

#### **2A. LOCAL CHURCH BOARDS**

- A congregation is normally governed by an elected board of leaders [the expected minimum being five] who shall give responsible government of the local congregation in keeping with its own bylaws, the EMCC Bylaw, and the laws of the land.
- The governing board, whatever the appellation (elders, deacons, church board, church council, etc.), is the board of leaders who act in an official and legal capacity on behalf of the congregation.

#### **2B. STEERING COMMITTEES**

- Where a local congregation is unable to elect a governing body of leaders [the expected minimum being five] entirely made up of its members, it shall be governed by a Steering Committee.

### **Level 3: Steering Committees**

#### **3A. CONDITIONS THAT MAY PROMPT THE APPOINTMENT OF A STEERING COMMITTEE**

- The congregation or its existing leaders request additional leaders appointed
- The congregation or its existing leaders request the appointment of all its leaders.
- The number of voting/active members of the congregation is less than 15 and the EMCC has authorized the appointment of a Steering Committee and has declared the congregation “church in transition” [Such a church would revert to Associate status, that is, without vote at Assembly].
- The congregation is a “developing congregation” -- an Associate congregation not yet fully organized.
- The congregation’s affairs require intervention as per the provisions of the EMCC Articles of Governance, section 2.6.2.

### 3B. COMPOSITION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

- The Steering Committee shall be composed of no less than five and no more than nine [excluding the President].
- The President (or his designate) has ex officio membership on the Steering Committee.
- In some cases the President may be satisfied to see a local church board continue to function with as few as three elected members, in which case, no Steering Committee shall be appointed.
- Where a Steering Committee has been mandated for any of the above conditions, the President shall be responsible to see that the affairs of the church are managed.

### 3C. ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING

- The Steering Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with local leaders and people, keeping mind that wherever possible some appointments be from within the congregation.
- The President shall report on the appointments and on any change in appointees to the Board of Directors, who may overrule these appointments if not satisfied with the appropriateness of the appointments or the suitability of the appointees.
- The Steering Committee shall keep the congregation informed of its actions and shall adopt an open and consultative stance in the giving and receiving of input from the congregation.
- The Steering Committee shall keep accurate minutes of its actions including the exact wording of any resolutions.
- The Steering Committee shall report to the President giving due notice of meetings and shall send a copy of the minutes of any meetings.
- The President may veto any action of the Steering Committee, which veto may be overruled by appeal of the Steering Committee to the EMCC Board of Directors.

### 3D. DUTIES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

- The task of the Steering Committee is to govern the congregation for an interim period so that the congregation can fulfill its mandate as an EMC local church as an “an organized body of believers in Christ voluntarily joined together for public worship and evangelism, teaching the Word, fellowship with the saints, observance of the ordinances, exercise in prayer, and who are commissioned with the responsibility to administer discipline.” where believers exhibit “the characteristic marks of the members of the true church ... faith in Jesus as the Son of God, love for God and for those of like faith, obedience to God’s commandments and victory over the world. (1 John 3:21-24; 1 John 5:1-5)”
- The Steering Committee shall serve as the governing body of a congregation in preparation for the time when the congregation can organize as a self-governing EMCC church able to select its own local board.
- The Steering Committee shall work with pastoral leaders or church planters in fulfilling the Great Commission.
- The Steering Committee shall be responsible for budget, receipt of funds, and payments of financial obligations, keeping of financial records and making financial reports.

[Approved by the Board of Directors March 23, 2007. Editorial revisions March 30, 2007]