

These motions will be discussed and voted on by delegates from CBWC Member Churches at Assembly 2023.



PROPOSALS from the CBWC Board | For Assembly 2023

1. Preamble- Affiliation Policy

(It is standard practice for an organization to have a process for membership in that organization. A portion of this affiliation document has been in existence as an approved assembly document for many years. This proposed revision outlines a more robust process for local church affiliation and disaffiliation with the CBWC).

Formal Motion- Affiliation Policy

That the proposed revisions to the 'Terms of Reference for Affiliation with the CBWC' policy be approved.

[\(CLICK HERE FOR PROPOSED REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE\)](#)

2. Preamble- Implementation Date

(The following motion is conditional upon the passing of the Affiliation Policy. The proposed period between Assembly 2023 and implementation allows member churches time to discern alignment with the practices and teachings of the CBWC as outlined in the Identity Statement).

Formal Motion- Implementation Date

That the full implementation of the Revised Terms of Reference for Affiliation policy take effect on January 1, 2024.

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3. Preamble - Leadership

Whereas CBWC desires unity and clarity among all of its members, registered and credentialed Ministers, Staff, and Board members, regarding its statements of faith, teachings, and practices;

And numerous statements on faith, teachings, and practices of the CBWC have been resolved and agreed upon by CBWC members at CBWC Assemblies;

Many of these statements were consolidated and outlined in the “Identity Statement of the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada” (the “Identity Statement”);

The Identity Statement summarizes the core identity and beliefs of the CBWC, to help further its mission, vision, and purpose; and

The Identity Statement was approved by the Assembly in May of 2022.

Formal Motion- Leadership

Be it resolved:

That CBWC will require all *new* CBWC registered and credentialed Ministers, all *new* CBWC Executive Staff, and all *new* CBWC Board Members to confirm their agreement to uphold the practices and teachings of the CBWC as outlined in the Identity Statement.

That CBWC will ask all *existing* CBWC registered and credentialed Ministers, all existing CBWC Executive Staff, and all existing CBWC Board Members to confirm their agreement to uphold the practices and teachings of the CBWC as outlined in the Identity Statement but will not require this prior to April 30, 2024.

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4. Preamble - Women in Ministry

(The CBWC has been ordaining women since 1959. This motion is formalizing a value that has been historically reflected by CBWC Leadership that affirms women in pastoral ministry).

Whereas the following description was approved as part of the CBWC Identity Statement which identifies a value held by the CBWC, under the heading of **priesthood of all believers**:

“Loved by God and created in God’s own image, each one of us is able to meet with God through the atoning work of Christ. As male and female, equally called, the churches of the CBWC honor each person’s responsibility to exercise their giftedness in Christ’s body, the church, and to minister to each other as a ‘priesthood of all believers.’ With Christ as our Lord, each person is to regard others with the same humility that Christ exemplified in the cross. We live in voluntary submission to one another out of reverence for Christ. *Acts 6:1–7; 15:22–35; 17:10–12; Rom 12; 1 Cor 12:1–31; Eph 4; Phil 2:1–18; Heb 4:14–16; 10:19–25; 1 Pet 2:1–10; Rev 1:4–8*”

And Whereas the following motion was approved by the CBWC Assembly in 1959:

“That if a woman in the pastorate meets the same education standards as required of men for the ministry, she be accorded the right to appear before the Ordination Examining Council when her ordination is requested by her church and approved by the Association concerned.”

Formal Motion- Women in Ministry

Be it resolved

That the CBWC Assembly affirms the priesthood of all believers, with both women and men as being equally called and gifted for pastoral ministry.

That CBWC denominational leaders will model this value in belief and practice by giving equal employment consideration to qualified men and women to all leadership roles, including invitations to preach, teach and serve in all capacities at CBWC sponsored events.

That CBWC churches, boards, and clergy are expected to show respect to women who are in pastoral leadership roles in the CBWC.

That the CBWC Assembly strongly encourages all churches to recognize the spiritual gifts of all believers and faithfully call both men and women into all areas of leadership within the church, including the role of pastor.

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