

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

This document will serve as official notice for several proposed changes to the Articles of Association and By-Laws of the Advent Christian General Conference of America, which will be voted on by the delegate body of the 15th triennial and 60th session of the Advent Christian General Conference of America, Inc. that will be held August 7 – 11, 2023 at the Ridgecrest Conference and Retreat Center in Black Mountain, N.C.

The proposed changes that will be considered are briefly explained below, followed by the current version of the article and the proposed changes to that article, with the proposed changes highlighted in yellow.

Proposed By-Law Change 1

Currently there are of two levels of Associate Members, those listed in the By-Laws and those added as directed in Article I Section 2. This proposed change will remove the two levels and treat all Associate Members alike in terms of their representation at Triennial Meetings.

Current Reading:

ARTICLE I - Membership

Section 1. The membership of this body shall consist of churches which are members of Advent Christian Conference; of Conferences which are members of one of the five Advent Christian Regional Associations; of the same Regional Associations of which the Conferences are members; and of the following existing Associate Members: Advent Christian Village, Aurora University, Berkshire Christian College, Advent Christian Retirement Communities, Inc.

Section 2. Any organization located in North America, serving a constituency of the Advent Christian General Conference, may become an Associate Member of the Advent Christian General Conference upon the recommendation of the Executive Council and acceptance by the delegate body by a two-thirds vote at any regular or special meeting of the delegate body.

Proposed Change:

ARTICLE I - Membership

Section 1. The membership of this body shall consist of churches which are members of Advent Christian Conference; of Conferences which are members of one of the five Advent Christian Regional Associations; of the same Regional Associations of which the Conferences are members.

Section 2. Any organization located in North America, serving a constituency of the Advent Christian General Conference, may become an Associate Member of the Advent Christian

General Conference upon the recommendation of the Executive Council and acceptance by the delegate body by a two-thirds vote at any regular or special meeting of the delegate body.

Proposed By-Law Change 2

The second change deals with the representation of delegates from the Churches, Conferences, and Associate Members. Currently churches are allotted one delegate for every 100 members or major fraction thereof. The proposed change would entitle each church to one delegate for every 50 members or major fraction thereof. Conferences are currently entitled to one delegate for every 200 members or major fraction thereof. The proposed change would entitle a conference to one delegate for every 100 members or major fraction thereof. Currently older Associate Members are entitled to two delegates and newer Associate Members are entitled to one delegate. The proposed change establishes equal delegates for all Associate Members.

Current Reading:

ARTICLE II - Meeting

Section 1. Each **church** with membership in one of the Conferences shall be entitled to one delegate for each **100** members or major fraction thereof, provided each church shall be entitled to at least one delegate. Each **Conference** with membership in one of the Regions shall be entitled to one delegate for each **200** members or major fraction thereof, at least one-half of whom must be lay members, provided each Conference shall be entitled to at least one delegate. Each **Conference president** shall have a delegate vote. Each **Regional Superintendent** shall have a delegate vote. Each of the fifteen members of the **Executive Council**, provided for in Article IV, Section 2, shall have a delegate vote. **Each Associate Member** designated in Article I, Section 1, shall be entitled to two delegates. Each **organization** extended Associate Membership under the provisions of Article I, Section 2, shall be entitled to one delegate (GC 93-42).

Proposed Change:

ARTICLE II - Meeting

Section 1. Each **church** with membership in one of the Conferences shall be entitled to one delegate for each **50** members or major fraction thereof, provided each church shall be entitled to at least one delegate. Each **Conference** with membership in one of the Regions shall be entitled to one delegate for each **100** members or major fraction thereof, at least one-half of whom must be lay members, provided each Conference shall be entitled to at least one delegate. Each **Conference president** shall have a delegate vote. Each **Regional Superintendent** shall have a delegate vote. Each of the fifteen members of the **Executive Council**, provided for in Article IV, Section 2, shall have a delegate vote. **Each Associate Member under the provisions of Article I Section 2 shall be entitled to two delegates. (GC 93-42).**

Proposed By-Law Amendments

This addition deals with amending the By-Laws by inserting two new articles dealing with the process to change the Declaration of Principles and Statement of Faith. As a result, a renumbering of the articles in the By-Laws will also be necessary.

Article XII

Declaration of Principles Change

Any action which would effect change of the Advent Christian Declaration of Principles must be submitted to the Executive Council by an Advent Christian church, conference, or region or member of the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall receive such proposals and shall appoint a Task Force to consider the biblical basis of the proposal as well as its impact upon and implication for the polity and unity of the Advent Christian denomination. The Task Force shall work in consultation with the originator of the proposal and the Executive Director. They will bring their recommendation to the Executive Council for action no later than one year after the proposal is first brought to the Executive Council. If approved by a three-fourths vote of the Executive Council at the meeting at which the recommendation is presented, the proposed change shall then be brought to the delegates at the next regular General Conference session. A three-fourths vote by ballot of the delegates shall be required for ratification of the recommended change. Notice of the recommended change shall be stated in the call to meeting and communicated throughout the denomination six months, three months and one month immediately preceding the meeting of the delegate body.

Article XIII

Statement of Faith Change

Any action which would effect change of the Advent Christian Statement of Faith must be submitted to the Executive Council by an Advent Christian church, conference, or region or member of the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall receive such proposals and shall appoint a Task Force to consider the biblical basis of the proposal as well as its impact upon and implication for the polity and unity of the Advent Christian denomination. The Task Force shall work in consultation with the originator of the proposal and the Executive Director. They will bring their recommendation to the Executive Council for action no later than one year after the proposal is first brought to the Executive Council. If approved by a three-fourths vote of the Executive Council at the meeting at which the recommendation is presented, the proposed change shall then be brought to the delegates at the next regular General Conference session. A three-fourths vote by ballot of the delegates shall be required for ratification of the recommended change. Notice of the recommended change shall be stated in the call to meeting and communicated throughout the denomination six months, three months, and one month immediately preceding the meeting of the delegate body.

Then: Article XIII become XIV

Article XIV become XV

The Nashville Statement

The delegate body will vote on the adoption of the Nashville Statement to supersede the Resolution on Human Sexuality (2017-40) adopted by the delegate body at the 2017 Triennial Convention. To paraphrase one of the statement's contributors, "The Nashville Statement is a Christian statement concerning issues of human sexuality. It speaks with forthright clarity, biblical conviction, gospel compassion, cultural relevance, and practical helpfulness. It is built on the persuasion that the Christian Scriptures speak with clarity and authority for the good of humankind. It is permeated by the awareness that we are all sinners in need of divine grace through Jesus Christ. It affirms with joy that no form of sexual sin is beyond forgiveness and healing. It touches the most fundamental and urgent questions of the hour, without presuming to be a blueprint for political action." The statement has been signed by more than 24,000 Christian leaders, churches, educational institutions and parachurch organizations. The statement can be reviewed in its entirety at <https://cbmw.org/nashville-statement>.

All items of business or resolution to be brought before the delegate body of General Conference must be submitted to the Business Committee. Send items to the chairman of the Business Committee, Rev. Calvin Leavitt, 515 S Main St., Salemburg, NC 28385. E-mail: revleavitt@icloud.com.