

Proposed By-Law Amendment

ARTICLE V

Contested Credentials Hearing

Section 5.1 A Minister who has been notified by the Board of Ordered Ministry that the Board of Ordered Ministry will recommend to the Covenant Ministerium the removal of said Minister's credentials may contest such a recommendation before the Executive Committee of the Covenant Ministerium. Any Minister who seeks to contest the removal of their credentials must submit their intent to do so in writing to both the President of the Covenant Ministerium and the Chair of the Board of Ordered Ministry no later than 60 days after being notified by the Board of Ordered Ministry of their recommendation to remove said minister's credentials.

Section 5.2 The President of the Covenant Ministerium will notify the Executive Committee of the Covenant Ministerium in writing no later than 10 days after being informed that a minister desires to contest their removal of credentials. This notification will include the charges of the Board of Ordered Ministry involving the Minister in question.

The Contested Credentials Hearing will take place before the Executive Committee of the Covenant Ministerium at the annual gathering of the Executive Committee of the Covenant Ministerium.

Section 5.3 The minister who is contesting the removal of their credentials and the Board of Ordered Ministry will be given equal time to present their cases at each stage of the Contested Credentials Hearing.

Section 5.4 Prior to the start of the Contested Credentials Hearing the Executive Officers of the Covenant Ministerium will establish time frames for the Contested Credentials Hearing, including deliberations and debate. The President of the Covenant Ministerium must submit these timeframes to both the Minister in question and the Board of Ordered Ministry at least one month prior to the annual gathering of the Executive Committee of the Covenant Ministerium so as to provide adequate time for preparation.

Section 5.5 No testimony that is directly relevant to the Contested Credentials Hearing may take place prior to the hearing itself. Anyone wishing to present first-hand information about the minister in question or the recommendation of the Board of Ordered Ministry must do so as a witness during the Contested Credentials Hearing.

Section 5.6 The President of the Covenant Ministerium will preside over the Contested Credentials Hearing and will be responsible to maintain proper order. The President of the

Covenant Ministerium must make every reasonable effort to preside in an impartial manner ensuring an equitable and fair process. If the President of the Covenant Ministerium needs to recuse themselves for any reason, the Vice-President of the Covenant Ministerium will assume the responsibilities of the President for the purposes of the Contested Credentials Hearing.

Section 5.7 The Board of Ordered Ministry will present first at each stage of the Contested Credentials Hearing. The hearing will be ordered as follows:

- a) Opening Statements.
- b) Witness testimony.
- c) Closing Statements.

Section 5.8 Deliberation will begin following the conclusion of closing statements. Both the minister who is contesting the removal of their credentials and the representatives from the Board of Ordered Ministry who presented will exit the room until a decision has been reached. Deliberation will be ordered as follows:

- a) Debate on approving or not approving the recommendation of the Board of Ordered Ministry to remove the credentials of the minister in question.
- b) Vote on the recommendation for the removal of credentials, a two-thirds vote is required to approve the recommendation.
- c) If a two-thirds vote is reached on the recommendation for the removal of credentials, the Board of Ordered Ministry will then, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee of the Covenant Ministerium, submit recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the ECC.
- d) If a two-thirds vote is not reached then the matter returns to the Board of the Ordered Ministry,

Section 5.9 The President of the Ministerium will inform both the Minister and the chair of the Board of Ordered Ministry on the day of the hearing the results and vote percentages.

Section 5.10 After every annual gathering of the The Executive Committee of the Covenant Ministerium, if there was a Contested Credentials Hearing and a two-thirds vote is reached on the recommendation for the removal of credentials, then that information will be disclosed to the ministerium within 7 days from the Contested Credentials Hearing.

Section 5.11 Members of the Executive Committee of the Covenant Ministerium, who also sit on the Board of Ordered Ministry, will not speak of the Board of Ordered Ministry's processes and discussions around this care issue beyond what the Board presented during the hearing.

Section 5.12 If a chair or president from a conference or association is not able to attend the annual gathering of the Executive Committee of the Ministerium, they may delegate a replacement. During an annual gathering of the Executive Committee of the Ministerium where a Contested Credentials Hearing will take place, only another elected officer from the conference or association is allowed to replace the chair or president for the hearing.

(ORIGINAL LANGUAGE for comparison. Please do not make changes to this copy)

ARTICLE V

Contested Credentials Hearing

Section 5.1 A Minister who has been notified by the Board of Ordered Ministry that the Board of Ordered Ministry will recommend to the Covenant Ministerium the removal of said Minister's credentials may contest such a recommendation before the Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium. Any Minister who seeks to contest the removal of their credentials must submit their intent to do so in writing to both the President of the Covenant Ministerium and the Chair of the Board of Ordered Ministry no less than 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium.

Section 5.2 The Executive Officers of the Covenant Ministerium will notify the Covenant Ministerium in writing no less than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium at which a Contested Credentials Hearing is to take place. This notification will include the charges of the Board of Ordered Ministry against the Minister in question.

Section 5.3 The minister who is contesting the removal of their credentials and the Board of Ordered Ministry will be given equal time to present their cases at each stage of the Contested Credentials Hearing.

Section 5.4 Prior to the start of the Contested Credentials Hearing the President of the Covenant Ministerium will introduce a motion to establish time frames for the Contested Credentials Hearing, including deliberations and debate. The President of the Covenant Ministerium must submit this motion to both the Minister in question and the Board of Ordered Ministry at least one month prior to the Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium so as to provide adequate time for preparation. This motion may be debated and amended by the Covenant Ministerium.

Section 5.5 No testimony that is directly relevant to the Contested Credentials Hearing may take place prior to the hearing itself. Anyone wishing to present first-hand information about the minister in question or the recommendation of the Board of Ordered Ministry must do so as a witness during the Contested Credentials Hearing. The President of the Ministerium will determine what constitutes directly relevant testimony.

Section 5.6 The President of the Covenant Ministerium will preside over the Contested Credentials Hearing and will be responsible to maintain proper order. The President of the Covenant Ministerium must make every reasonable effort to preside in an impartial manner ensuring an equitable and fair process. No one, save for those directly involved in the Contested Credentials Hearing or the President of the Covenant Ministerium, may obtain the floor during the hearing. Any questions, or points of order arising during the hearing must be submitted to the President of the Ministerium in writing. If the President of the Covenant Ministerium feels that he or she cannot be impartial for whatever reason they may recuse themselves and the Vice-President of the Covenant Ministerium will assume the responsibilities of the President for the purposes of the Contested Credentials Hearing.

Section 5.7 The Board of Ordered Ministry will present first at each stage of the Contested Credentials Hearing. The hearing will be ordered as follows:

- a) Opening Statements.
- b) Witness testimony.
- c) Closing Statements.

Section 5.8 Deliberation will begin following the conclusion of closing statements. Both the minister who is contesting the removal of their credentials and the representatives from the Board of Ordered Ministry who presented will exit the room until a decision has been reached. Deliberation will be ordered as follows:

- a) Debate on approving or not approving the recommendation of the Board of Ordered Ministry to remove the credentials of the minister in question.
- b) Vote on the recommendation for the removal of credentials, a two-thirds vote is required to the recommendation.
- c) If a two-thirds vote is reached on the recommendation for the removal of credentials, the Board of Ordered Ministry will then, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, submit recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the ECC.
- d) If a two-thirds vote is not reached then the matter returns to the Board of the Ordered Ministry