

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AGENDA**

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- KCA 1. **201-20GSa General Conference Sessions - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment [23]** Con Art V
- KCA 2. **201-20GSb Session Committees - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment [25]** Bylaws Art II
- KCA 3. **204-20GS General Conference Executive Committee - Constitution and Bylaws Amendment [26]** Bylaws Art XIII
- KCA 4. **214-20GSE Use of “Telephone Conference” – Constitution and Bylaws Editorial Directive [28]** Directive

1 OGC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO17AC/17AC/209-17GS/202-18GS/Con&By/ADCOM/  
 2 SecC/GCDO19AC/19AC/201-19GS/SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO20AC/  
 3 SEC/ADCOM(Steering)/20AC to HMM-21GCS

4  
 5 201-20GSa GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS - CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
 6 AMENDMENT

7  
 8 RATIONALE: This amendment allows the General Conference Executive Committee to  
 9 determine the timing for a subsequent General Conference Session after a Session is  
 10 postponed and makes provision for electronic presence at a Session. The amendment also  
 11 provides an approval process for the minutes of the General Conference Session and defines  
 12 the Session’s parliamentary authority.

13  
 14 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws,  
 15 Constitution Article V—General Conference Sessions, to read as follows:

16  
 17 ARTICLE V—GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS  
 18

19 Sec. 1. The General Conference shall hold quinquennial sessions at such time and  
 20 place as the General Conference Executive Committee shall designate and announce by a  
 21 notice published in the *Adventist Review* or *Adventist World* or other publications voted by the  
 22 General Conference Executive Committee in three consecutive months beginning at least four  
 23 months before the date for the opening of the Session. In case special world conditions make  
 24 it imperative to postpone the calling of the Session, the General Conference Executive  
 25 Committee, in regular or special council, shall have authority to make such postponement, not  
 26 to exceed two years, giving notice to all constituent organizations. In the event that the  
 27 General Conference Executive Committee exercises its authority to postpone a Session, it  
 28 shall also have the authority to set the subsequent regular Session at such time and place as it  
 29 shall see fit, not to exceed five calendar years from the date of the postponed Session.

30  
 31 Sec. 2. The General Conference Executive Committee may call - No change

32  
 33 Sec. 3. At least one-third of the total delegates authorized hereinafter - No change

34  
 35 Sec. 4. Generally, regular or specially called General Conference Sessions are to be  
 36 held in person and onsite. However, delegates when requested by the General Conference  
 37 Executive Committee may participate by means of an electronic conference or similar  
 38 communications by which all persons participating can hear each other at the same time, and  
 39 participation by such means shall constitute presence in person and attendance at such a  
 40 meeting. Votes cast remotely shall have the same validity as if the delegates met and voted  
 41 onsite. ~~Sec. 4. The election of officers and the voting on all matters of business shall be by~~  
 42 ~~viva voce vote, or as designated by the Chair, unless otherwise requested by a majority of the~~  
 43 ~~delegates present.~~

44  
 45 Sec. 5. The election to any office enumerated in Article VI, Sec. 1. and all other voting  
 46 shall be as defined by the *General Conference Rules of Order*. Voting electronically or by  
 47 secret ballot must be in a manner that ensures the highest integrity, privacy, and  
 48 confidentiality, as verified by General Conference Secretariat and General Conference  
 49 Auditing Service, in consultation with the General Conference’s legal counsel.

1           Sec. 6. Minutes of the General Conference Session shall be approved at the first  
2 Annual Council of the General Conference Executive Committee following a regular or  
3 special session.

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5           ~~Sec. 5.~~ Sec. 7. The delegates to a General Conference Session shall be - No change

6  
7           ~~Sec. 6.~~ Sec. 8. Regular delegates shall represent the General Conference's - No change

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9           ~~Sec. 7.~~ Sec. 9. Regular delegates shall be allotted on the following - No change

10  
11           ~~Sec. 8.~~ Sec. 10. Delegates at large shall represent the General - No change

12  
13           ~~Sec. 9.~~ Sec. 11. Division administrations shall consult with unions to ensure - No  
14 change

15  
16           ~~Sec. 10.~~ Sec. 12. Credentials to sessions shall be issued by the - No change

17  
18           ~~Sec. 11.~~ Sec. 13. Calculations for all delegate allotments, as provided - No change

19  
20           Sec. 14. Parliamentary Authority: The parliamentary authority pertaining to all rules  
21 and procedures for General Conference Session not covered by its constitution and bylaws  
22 shall be based on the *General Conference Rules of Order*.

23

1 SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO20AC/20AC to HMM-21GCS

2  
3 201-20GSb SESSION COMMITTEES - CONSTITUTION  
4 AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

5  
6 RATIONALE: This amendment allows for Session committees to meet by electronic means  
7 and clarifies that only credentialed delegates may be members of the Session Nominating  
8 Committee.

9  
10 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws  
11 Article II—Session Committees, to read as follows:

12  
13 ARTICLE II—SESSION COMMITTEES

14  
15 Sec. 1. At each regular session of the General Conference, such - No change

16  
17 Sec. 2. Session committees may convene by means of an electronic conference or  
18 similar communications by which all persons participating can hear each other at the same  
19 time.

20  
21 ~~Sec. 2.~~ Sec. 3. *Church Manual* Committee: The chair of the *Church Manual* - No  
22 change

23  
24 ~~Sec. 3.~~ Sec. 4. Constitution and Bylaws Committee: The chair of the - No change

25  
26 ~~Sec. 4.~~ Sec. 5. Nominating Committee: a. The membership of the - No change

27  
28 b. The members of the Nominating Committee - No changes

29  
30 c. Each group (named in Sec. 4. b. 1) and 2) above) - No change

31  
32 d. Those chosen as members of the Nominating Committee must be duly  
33 credentialed delegates ~~accredited delegates in attendance~~ at the General Conference Session.

34  
35 e. Delegates holding elected positions under the - No change

36  
37 f. No delegate shall nominate more than one person - No change

38  
39 g. The Nominating Committee shall elect its own chair - No change

40  
41 h. The Nominating Committee shall limit its nominations - No change

42  
43 i. In order to expedite the work of the Nominating - No change

44  
45 ~~Sec. 5.~~ Sec. 6. Steering Committee: The Steering Committee shall be - No change

1 SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO17AC/212-17GS/205-  
 2 18GS/Con&By/ADCOM/Con&By/  
 3 ADCOM/PRE/Con&By/ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO19AC/19AC/204-19GS/Con&By/  
 4 ADCOM/PreC/SecC/TreC/GCDO20AC/20AC to HMM-21GCS

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 6 204-20GS GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -  
 7 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT

8  
 9 RATIONALE: This amendment allows for removal from membership on the General  
 10 Conference Executive Committee “for cause,” while adding to the definition of “for cause,” in  
 11 order to stay consistent with General Conference *Working Policy* B 45 20. The amendment  
 12 adds the executive officers to the list of elected positions requiring a quorum of 40 members.  
 13 It removes local conference/mission/field presidents from being invited to attend Annual  
 14 Council meetings of the General Conference Executive Committee and amends the  
 15 notification requirements for meetings of the Executive Committee called during a General  
 16 Conference Session.

17  
 18 RECOMMENDED, To amend the General Conference Constitution and Bylaws, Bylaws,  
 19 Article XIII—General Conference Executive Committee, to read as follows:

20  
 21 ARTICLE XIII—GENERAL CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

22  
 23 Sec. 1. a. During the intervals between sessions of the General - No change

24  
 25 b. The General Conference Executive Committee shall - No change

26  
 27 c. The General Conference Executive Committee shall have power to  
 28 elect or remove, for cause, officers, directors, and associate directors of  
 29 departments/associations/ services and committee members, and to fill for the current term  
 30 any vacancies that may occur in its offices, boards, committees, or agents due to death,  
 31 resignation, or other reasons. The phrase “for cause,” when used in connection with removal  
 32 from an elected or appointed position, or from membership on the General Conference  
 33 Executive Committee, shall include but not be limited to 1) incompetence; 2) persistent  
 34 failure to cooperate with duly constituted authority in substantive matters and with relevant  
 35 employment and denominational policies; 3) actions which may be the subject of discipline  
 36 under the *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual*; ~~or~~ 4) failure to maintain regular standing as  
 37 a member of the Seventh-day Adventist ~~Church.~~ Church; 5) theft or embezzlement; or 6)  
 38 conviction of or guilty plea for a crime.

39  
 40 d. The General Conference Executive Committee shall have - No change

41  
 42 e. The removal from office by the General Conference - No change

43  
 44 f. The General Conference Executive Committee shall have - No change

45  
 46 Sec. 2. a. A meeting of the General Conference Executive - No change

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 48 b. A meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee - No change

49  
 50 Sec. 3. A majority of the full membership of the General Conference - No change

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Sec. 4. Any fifteen members of the General Conference Executive Committee, including an officer of the General Conference, shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee for the disposition of routine items, and shall be empowered to transact business that is in harmony with the general plans outlined by the Executive Committee. A quorum of forty members is required for the disposition of non-routine items such as major financial decisions, the dismissal of elected and appointed employees, and the election of General Conference president, secretary, treasurer/chief financial officer, and vice presidents. ~~presidents of divisions and of general vice presidents.~~ All meetings require notice to members as per ~~Sec. 8.~~ Sec. 7. below.

Sec. 5. All meetings of the General Conference Executive Committee - No change

Sec. 6. Meetings of the General Conference Executive Committee - No change

~~Sec. 7. Local conference/mission/field presidents shall be invited to attend Annual Council meetings of the General Conference Executive Committee when it is held within the territory of their division. Unless an executive session, which consists of members only, is called, such invitees shall be extended the privilege of participation in all discussions of the meeting, but without vote.~~

~~Sec. 8. Sec. 7.~~ Notice as to time, place, and any other requirements under these Bylaws of all General Conference Executive Committee meetings shall be provided to all members in a reasonable manner at least three (3) days prior to the meeting if the meeting is to take place by ~~telephone~~ electronic conference or similar communications, or at least fourteen (14) days if it is to take place in person, unless the meeting is held during a General Conference Session. If General Conference Executive Committee meetings are called during a General Conference Session, notice given during a business session shall constitute notice to all members, and all other notice requirements are waived. These notice requirements are waived in the case of a General Conference Executive Committee meeting convened during a General Conference Session since all General Conference Executive Committee members are expected to be in attendance at the Session.

1 SEC/Con&By/ADCOM/SecC/GCDO20AC/20AC to HMM-21GCS

2  
3 214-20GSE USE OF “TELEPHONE CONFERENCE” -  
4 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS EDITORIAL DIRECTIVE

5  
6 RECOMMENDED, To approve a directive to amend the General Conference Constitution  
7 and Bylaws, where appropriate, by deleting “telephone conference” and replacing it with  
8 “electronic conference.”

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