

## **Executive Summary**

### **Background**

In 2012 at the AGM of BIC Canada a motion was passed giving the Leadership Team (Board of Directors) the mandate to investigate the potential of each local church becoming incorporated and locally owning all property and assets. The motion gave the Leadership Team the option of bringing to the 2013 AGM a fully developed proposal and related recommendations.

In this same season BIC Canada began preparing for compliance with the Canadian Not for Profit Act.

In preparation for the AGM the Leadership Team made the decision to not bring to the AGM a proposal regarding local church incorporation and ownership of property. The decision was made to include anything related to Incorporation and local church property in future work with CNCA changes.

The Leadership Team did bring forward a motion amending the then current Article 5 of our Articles of Government. This was to allow a much easier process for future amendments that would be required to comply with the CNCA provisions. This motion and the amendment was approved by both the AGM and the required congregational votes.

Through out the fall and winter we have worked with legal council in the development of new documents for BIC Canada, which would be compliant with the CNCA. By October 17, 2014 we must submit to Industry Canada and the Canadian Revenue Agency new corporate documents that address the governance of BIC Canada. In order to submit these documents to the federal government they will need to first be approved by the AGM or a Special Meeting of BIC Canada.

The documents together as a whole are called **The Canadian Handbook on Faith and Life**. The CHLF will be made up of 4 documents, which together will govern the operations of BIC Canada and local churches. These documents are:

1. The Articles of Continuance
2. The General Operating Bylaws of BIC Canada
3. The Articles of Government
4. The Articles of Faith and Doctrine (no changes being made).

## DRAFT DOCUMENT

Copies of these documents will be on our Web Page by the end of March, 2014. Copies are available in all local church offices.

### **What are the major differences between these new documents and the old Articles of Government.**

There are many differences, some minor and inconsequential while others are significant in their construct. With all of the changes it is our desire that we retain our current sense of life and faith together.

#### **Schedule 1:**

- Revised process for amendment of governing documents. This was passed last year and was ratified by our congregations. No longer do congregations need to approve amendments to our documents. A Special Resolution at the BIC Canada AGM is suffice.
- The ability of the Board of Directors (LT) to appoint up to 1/3 of its members. At the next AGM these new members would need to be confirmed if they were to continue.

#### **General Operating Bylaws**

- These relate strictly to the operations of BIC Canada. They impact local churches in places where there is interaction or intersection of the local church and the denomination.
- 2.01 – In the past, members of a local church have become members of the denomination automatically. There are certain “member” rights under the CNCA which would have been difficult to implement with a large dispersed membership. Having local churches as the members of BIC Canada makes the management of membership “rights” and “responsibilities” easier and more streamlined.
- 2.06 (b)i – Delegates for AGM will be determined by average worship attendance at all public worship services. The number of delegates will no longer be determined by membership.
- 3.15 – Gives us the flexibility to use different kinds of rules of order for the AGM. This means we will not be tied strictly to Roberts Rules of Order. The rules for any particular meeting must be communicated in advance
- 4.02 – The AGM determines the number of directors to serve on the Board of Directors (LT).
- 5.01 – 5.07 – The most obvious change here is that the Board of Director self organizes.

### **Articles of Government**

- The document is much smaller and while it remains a governing document it operates in many ways as a policy manual. There will be further work on all of these provisions in the next year or so.
- Article 3 Section 2 (pg 2) – The baptism provision for membership has been adjusted. Prior documents outlined the mode of baptism and used the words believers baptism.
- Article 3 Section 3 (pg 2 – 3)– Establishes minimal governing standards for a local church.
- Articles 5 – 9 (pg 5 – 8) deal with local church incorporation and the potential of local church ownership of property.
- Division 5: BIC Canada (pg 14-15) – Outlines in boilerplate fashion the implementation of teams and how they are free to operate and under whose authority they function.
- We have removed the Christian Life and Practice section. A revised document similar to this is being worked on and will be adopted in the future by BIC Canada.

### **Process of Adoption**

1. Coffee & Conversations are being held, I have committed to meet with any church board and delegate team prior to annual meeting to answer questions and address any concerns. The final event prior to AGM is Friday May 2, 2014 at The Meeting House. You are welcome to attend.
2. At the May 3, 2014 AGM the first item of business will be the adoption of these documents. If it passes we will begin immediately operating under the provisions of these documents. If the Leadership Team recommendation to adopt these documents were to fail we will:
  - a. Operate under the current Articles of Government
  - b. Call a Special Meeting of BIC Canada for August 2014 to adopt a new set of governing documents.
3. With approval of the documents by the AGM we will then submit to Industry Canada and the CRA for their approval.
4. Register our Corporate name with the appropriate federal and provincial authorities (which ever provinces we either have, had have or may have a desire to have a presence).
5. Bind, print and distribute the new Canadian Handbook on Faith and Life (CHFL)
6. Develop and/or edit documents that are referenced in the new governing documents, such as:
  - a. Conflict Resolution and Discipline Manual
  - b. Policies and provisions for Incorporation.
  - c. Policies and provisions for local church ownership
  - d. Continued work on the Articles of Government in terms of best practices.