

## Summary of Proposed Changes Included in Joint Notice of Motion

### 1. One license instead of two for both ordination and lay leadership tracks (Sections 1, 2, 4, 5)

The licensing process and experience varies from church to church and Association to Association. The changes proposed here will help to strengthen the licensing process and provide consistency for candidates, churches, and Associations.

The Board of Ministerial Standards and Education (BMSE; the Board) has observed that some churches and Associations function well in the area of licensing candidates. There are also some Associations struggling to function due to a lack of available leadership, communication issues (candidates and churches not aware of who to contact, lack of knowledge about process and timelines), and low levels of church and pastor engagement. Some Associations have ceased functioning completely or may only be able to operate at a minimal level. This has resulted in delays for candidates affecting their journey towards ordination or lay leader recognition. We do acknowledge and value that some Associations are able to operate at a high level as it pertains to licensing.

**Recommendation:** The motion proposes a combining of the local church and Association license into one license (both for ordination and lay leadership). The Licensing Committee will be comprised of representatives from the local church and the Association licensing committee (where present) or representatives from other, preferably neighbouring CBAC churches. The license will now be renewed every two years instead of every year.

To assist churches and Associations in the process and to ensure consistency, a Licensing Kit will be developed and available.

### 2. Initial Interview Requirements (Section 1.2)

Some of the candidates who come to the Board for their initial interview towards ordination are from other parts of the world; some do not have their local church license in place; and some do not have local church membership. Current guidelines normally prohibit such candidates from entering the process. The Board needs to resolve what they determine as the basic required steps for a candidate's initial interview making it easier for some to come to the Board.

**Recommendation:** The Board Executive will be empowered to conduct an informal interview (in person or via video conference) with a candidate who has not yet been received into membership in a CBAC church nor acquired the appropriate license to come to the Board for an initial formal interview. The candidate must have the support and recommendation of a senior staff member and the support of the Board's Executive.

### **3. Function and Composition of Examining Council (Section 1.3)**

In recent years, various concerns have been raised about Examining Council: how Associations appoint eligible Examining Council members (pastors and lay members); the lack of alternate members appointed; the format of Examining Council; consistent and thorough questioning of Ordination Candidates; and the length of the interviews.

The current guidelines have not been updated for more than forty years and represent the assumptions of a different time; they are insufficiently clear on some matters for our needs today. For example, greater clarity is needed regarding the eligibility requirements of pastors and lay persons who may serve on Examining Council. A review of our Examining Council process is overdue.

#### **Recommendations:**

**Chair of Examining Council** – Traditionally, it has been the Past President who has served in this role. Some chairs have been more comfortable running the meeting than others. The Board is recommending that like the Chief Examiner, the Executive Minister be requested to present a name for chair to be approved by vote of the Examining Council. This will require a change to the CBAC General Operating Bylaw.

**Who is eligible/ineligible to serve on Examining Council** – In recent years, non-accredited CBAC clergy (serving or not serving) have been appointed to Examining Council by Associations. The Board believes it is inconsistent to appoint clergy to Examining Council who are not accredited with the CBAC and have never submitted to our agreed-upon process.