

NEW By-law Section: Authority of Fellowship National Governance Documents and Resolutions Document

- 15.1 The following will be determinative of the authority upon Fellowship MEMBER churches for all Fellowship National governance documents:
- (a) Word of God:** The final source of authority in all areas of faith and practice is the Word of God as described in “The Bible” section of the Affirmation of Faith.
 - (b) Affirmation of Faith:** From the Bible, we have developed our Affirmation of Faith. The Affirmation of Faith enables us as MEMBER churches to come together as a fellowship of congregations by setting forth those aspects of the Word of God that we believe represent an appropriate and necessary spectrum of doctrinal truth.
The Affirmation of Faith is a binding document upon all MEMBER churches. Amendments to the Affirmation of Faith can only be made by a Three Quarters (3/4s) Resolution as set out in Article 2.1.
 - (c) Fellowship By-law:** For the purposes of legal definition within the society in which God has placed us and to protect the integrity and ongoing mission of our Affiliation of MEMBER churches, the *Fellowship’s General Operating By-law* has been filed with the federal government and approved by the Canada Revenue Agency Charities Directorate to evidence how we govern ourselves as an Affiliation of MEMBER churches.
This By-law is binding upon MEMBER churches. Amendments to the By-law can only be made by a Special Resolution as set out in Article 15.
 - (d) Fellowship Policy Statements:** Policy Statements are expressions of biblical convictions that we hold as Fellowship Baptists which have been approved by the delegates at a National Conference and are consistent with our Affirmation of Faith. We must strive to achieve some standard of expectation that will allow MEMBER churches appropriate levels of liberty in accordance with our historic principle of “soul liberty” on the one hand while not impairing the concept of theological integrity on the other.
Policy Statements are binding upon MEMBER churches. Policy Statements are initially drafted or amended by National Council or by not less than five percent (5%) of MEMBER churches. Policy Statements will have no binding effect until approved by a Special Resolution vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3s).
 - (e) Fellowship Guiding Statements:** Guiding Statements represent expressions of opinion, concern, or special focus that reflect particularly upon issues of theological importance that may need fuller definition than has been made in the Affirmation of Faith. Guiding Statements are designed to be a helpful resource to MEMBER churches as the church discusses and votes on issues both theological and practical that impact their local ministry.
Guiding Statements are not binding upon MEMBER churches. Guiding Statements are drafted or amended by National Council, formulated by assigned study teams with regional representation.

NOTE: From the 1950s to the 1990s “Fellowship Yearbooks” included Position Resolutions and Position Statements. These documents were drafted and approved at National Conferences and represented expressions of opinion, concern, or special focus at the point in time they were approved. Position Resolutions and Position Statements are not binding upon MEMBER churches and the practice of creating these documents has been discontinued.