

Changes to the FIEC Constitution and Ethos Statements

1. Eligibility requirements for Trustees

Amending Clause 11.3 of the FIEC Constitution, which deals with the eligibility requirements for trusteeship of the CIO

It is proposed that Clause 11.3 be amended as follows:

Delete the following words, *“and, in accordance with the doctrinal position of the FIEC as set out in the ethos statements, must be male.”*

Replace the deleted text with *“. The charity trustees have overall responsibility for the leadership, doctrinal standards, and membership criteria of the CIO. Therefore, a charity trustee must be qualified to serve as an elder in their affiliated church. This is consistent with the principles in the ethos statements.”*

So that the clause then reads: *“Every charity trustee must be a natural person. The charity trustees have overall responsibility for the leadership, doctrinal standards, and membership criteria of the CIO. Therefore, a charity trustee must be qualified to serve as an elder in their affiliated church. This is consistent with the principles in the ethos statements.”*

2. The Pastors' Network

The Pastors' Network – removing Clause 23 and making the necessary consequential amendments

The proposed amendments as a result of this proposal are listed below in sequential order:

1. Clause 2.1.9 and 2.1.10: cross references amended to read clause 32.1.1.
2. Clause 18.6.1: delete the following words from the clause *“and a member of the Pastors' Network (as defined in clause 23) ”*

So that the clause then reads: *“Shall be a minister of religion at the date of his appointment, and, in accordance with the ethos statements, therefore shall also be required to be male;”*

3. Clause 18.6.3: delete the following words from the end of the sub-clause *“In particular, the National Director shall ensure that the CIO continues to promote and uphold the objectives of the Pastors' Network as described in clause 23”*

So that the clause then reads: *“Shall be responsible for the day to day management and conduct of the CIO in accordance with the powers delegated to him by the board under clause 16.1, and within the parameters of any such delegation shall be entitled to establish teams, employ staff, appoint agents or enlist volunteers, subject to clause 16.6.”*

4. Clause 21.3: cross reference to clause 33 amended to read clause 32 and cross reference to clause 34 amended to read clause 33.

5. Clause 22.6.4: cross reference to clause 26 amended to read clause 25.
6. Clause 22.8: delete the following words from the clause *“all accredited pastors on the register kept in accordance with clause 23, and all accredited pastors shall be entitled to attend general meetings, but receipt.”*

Replace them with *“any individuals who the board determines are associated with the CIO in a manner and subject to any conditions determined by the board from time to time. Receipt”*

Replace *“a pastor”* in the second sentence and replace with *“an individual”*.

So that the clause then reads: *“Notice of general meetings shall also be sent to any individuals who the board determines are associated with the CIO in a manner and subject to any conditions determined by the board from time to time. Receipt of such notice shall not entitle an individual to vote at the general meeting unless they would otherwise be authorised to do so in accordance with this constitution.”*

7. Clause 22.18: insert at the end of the clause *“Observers may also include individuals who the board determines are associated with the CIO in a manner and subject to any conditions determined by the board from time to time.”*

So that the clause then reads:

“Any individual who is a member of an affiliated church shall be entitled to attend a general meeting as an observer, but shall not form part of the quorum or be entitled to vote. Observers may also include any individuals who the board determines are associated with the CIO in a manner and subject to any conditions determined by the board from time to time.”

8. Clause 23: Remove clause:

“23. Accredited pastors

23.1 The board shall, at its sole discretion, recognise as accredited pastors any pastor (whether or not they are attached to a church that is an affiliated church) who:

23.1.1 Holds and subscribes to the doctrines contained in the doctrinal basis and ethos statements;

23.1.2 Is in, has been in, or is preparing for pastoral leadership of an evangelical Christian church; and

23.1.3 Complies with the standards for pastoral ministry laid down by the board from time to time.

23.2 The board shall maintain a register of accredited pastors, and the names of the pastors on the register shall form the Pastors’ Network. In furtherance of the CIO’s objects, the Pastors’ Network is intended to promote, maintain and uphold biblical standards of ministry amongst accredited pastors, and to foster

relationships of mutual accountability and pastoral support between the pastors who belong to it.

23.3 The board, with the assistance of the National Director, shall establish an advisory committee to advise it on the pastors who are eligible to be included on the register of accredited pastors, and on the ministry classification under which the name of each pastor admitted to the register shall appear. The function of this committee shall be purely advisory, as described in clause 16.5, and the board shall not be entitled to delegate any of its functions to this committee. All members of the committee shall be required to affirm their agreement with the doctrinal basis and ethos statements.

23.4 A pastor who wishes his name to be included in the register of accredited pastors shall apply in writing in a form approved by the board, provided that the application shall always require an affirmation in writing of:

23.4.1 The doctrinal basis and ethos statements;

23.4.2 The standards for pastoral ministry set by the board; and

23.4.3 The applicant's willingness to advance the objectives of the Pastors' Network as described at clause 23.2 above.

23.5 The board may grant or refuse any application to be included in the register of accredited pastors, and may at any time remove a pastor from the register provided that:

23.5.1 Any decision to grant or refuse an application, or to remove a pastor from the register, shall be notified to the applicant within 21 days of the decision having been made; and

23.5.2 No pastor shall be removed from the register unless he has been given reasonable opportunity of an appropriate hearing under arrangements agreed by the board."

9. Renumber subsequent clauses so that current clause 24 becomes clause 23 and so on and that sub-clauses are renumbered in line with these changes.

10. (Updated) Clause 23.1: cross reference amended to read sub-clause 23.2.

11. (Updated) Clause 23.2: cross references to sub-clause 24.1 amended to read sub-clause 23.1.

12. (Updated) Clause 32.1.2: cross reference to clause 34 amended to read clause 33.

13. Statement on Women in Ministry: delete the following words from the last paragraph of this statement: *“those wishing to join the Pastors’ Network. Those applying to do so”*.

Replace them with: *“individuals associated with the CIO in a manner and subject to any conditions determined by the board from time to time who”*.

So that the last paragraph then reads: *“This also has implications for individuals associated with the CIO in a manner and subject to any conditions determined by the board from time to time who would need to accept the position of the FIEC on this issue.”*

14. Statement on Same Sex Marriage in the section headed “Implications for Practices of FIEC Churches”:

In paragraph 1 delete the following words: *“our Pastors’ Network”* and replace them with *“with individuals associated with the CIO in a manner and subject to any conditions determined by the board from time to time”*

So that paragraph 1 then reads: *“we will seek to uphold traditional biblical sexual ethics in both our teaching and our practices within our local churches and with individuals associated with the CIO in a manner and subject to any conditions determined by the board from time to time;”*.

In paragraph 2 delete the following words *“accredited pastors”* and replace them with *“individuals associated with the CIO in a manner and subject to any conditions determined by the board from time to time”*.

So that paragraph 2 then reads: *“none of our churches or individuals associated with the CIO in a manner and subject to any conditions determined by the board from time to time would in good conscience be able to perform, bless or host same-sex marriage or wedding ceremonies;”*

15. Appendix 2: references to Statement on Women in Ministry and Statement on Same Sex Marriage updated to show that they have been updated in November 2026.

3. Women in Ministry Ethos Statement

Proposal to amend the wording of the FIEC Women in Ministry ethos statement

The current statement entitled “Gender” reads:

God created us male and female, and calls us to live according to our gender identity which is inseparable from our biological sex determined at conception. Our gender may not be changed or reassigned.

The trustees propose the following amendment:

Delete the following words from the section on “Gender”:

“identity which ” and replace them with “. This”.

Insert *“which is”* after *“biological sex”*.

Delete *“. Our gender”* and replace with *“and”*

So that the section then reads as follows:

“God created us male and female, and calls us to live according to our gender. This is inseparable from our biological sex which is determined at conception and may not be changed or reassigned.”

4. Tidying up amendments to the Constitution

During our review of the Constitution, we have noted the following minor amendments which require updating:

1. Clause 14.1.6: add “or” to the end of the sub-clause.
2. Clause 22.11: amend “a affiliated church” to read “an affiliated church”.
3. (Updated) Clause 26.3.2: replace “;” at end of clause with “.”.
4. (Updated) Clause 30.1: amend “*byelaws*” to read “*bye laws*” so that this is consistent with the rest of the constitution.
5. (Updated) Clause 32.1.4: Remove the following words “, and the amendment does not take effect until it has been recorded in the Register of Charities”.

So that the clause then reads:

“A copy of every resolution amending the constitution, together with a copy of the CIO’s constitution as amended must be sent to the Commission by the end of the period of 15 days beginning with the date of passing of the resolution.”

This change is necessary due to a change made to the Charities Act 2011.

6. Due to the changes proposed, the index of the constitution will be updated.