

## AGENDA 2.3.11

# Change of interpretation of complaint procedures

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### PROPOSED MOTION

*Submitted by St Peter's Lutheran Church, Hobart Tas*

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Standing Committee on Constitutions provides guidelines on the interpretation of complaint procedures to ensure that every attempt at reconciliation is made in keeping with scriptural principles, in particular, Matthew 18:15-20 and Galatians 6:1, before any complaint is accepted for determination by the Tribunal.

### REASONS FOR THE MOTION

1. The primary purpose of the church is to pursue a ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This means that Christ calls us to gently restore those who are caught in sin whenever this is possible (Galatians 6:1).
2. The Constitution clearly provides for reconciliation according to scriptural principles. This basic approach must be reiterated in order to create a robust system that the Professional Standards Department is required to follow. The judicial system has been put in place for matters which cannot be resolved on the basis of seeking reconciliation according to scriptural principles. The system cannot be allowed to by-pass that requirement. To do so is to neglect our God-given responsibility of forgiveness and reconciliation which in turn sows division and undermines the central purpose of the church.