

AGENDA 2.4.6

Constitutional changes: Care for children and the vulnerable – Congregation

PROPOSED MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED that **Article 4 Objects** of the Model Constitution for a Congregation be amended with the addition of sub-clause 4.1.10 to include provisions for the care of children and the vulnerable as follows (words to be added – **bold**):

ARTICLE 4. OBJECTS

- 4.1 The Objects of the Congregation are to
 - 4.1.1 glorify the Triune God in its worship and in its work;
 - 4.1.2 bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ through the proclamation of the Gospel in accordance with the Confession and practice of the Church;
 - 4.1.3 gather into the Congregation such persons as are, or desire to become, members of the Church for their edification through the Word and the Sacraments;
 - 4.1.4 help the members to dedicate their God-given spiritual, material and physical gifts to the service of their Lord;
 - 4.1.5 enable the members to reach out into the community in their daily lives and in their congregational activities as bearers of the Gospel;
 - 4.1.6 minister to human need in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord in the spirit of Christian charity and service;
 - 4.1.7 exercise discipline over its members in conformity with the Scriptures and the Confession of the Congregation;
 - 4.1.8 join with the Church and the District in building and extending the Kingdom of God; and
 - 4.1.9 acquire, dispose of or otherwise deal with real and personal property in the interest of the work of the Church and the Congregation.
 - 4.1.10 maintain and promote a culture of care in all areas of the Congregation and its activities, so that all people, especially the vulnerable such as children and the aged, are protected against any form of spiritual, emotional, physical and sexual abuse by ensuring that**
 - 4.1.10.1 appropriate governance and leadership structures are in place;**
 - 4.1.10.2 policies and procedures are appropriately prescribed;**
 - 4.1.10.3 a culture of safety and care for children and all people is actively encouraged and practiced; and**
 - 4.1.10.4 the well-being of pastors, teachers and other church workers in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights is supported and promoted.**

REASONS FOR THE MOTION

The need for due concern for the wellbeing of children, the aged and vulnerable people has been well accepted and expected in society and this amendment gives witness to the intent of the Church to demonstrate its support for this goal.