**agenda 2.4.16**

**Constitutional changes: Pastors Conference**

**proposed motion**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that **Section 5.6 General Pastors Conference** of the By-laws of the Church be amended to clarify the role of the Pastors’ Conference in respect of Synod as follows (words to be deleted – ~~strikethrough~~; words to be added – **bold**):

**SECTION 5.6 GENERAL PASTORS CONFERENCE**

5.6.1 The duties of the General Pastors Conference shall be to

 5.6.1.1 give guidance in matters of doctrine and confession;

 5.6.1.2 foster theological studies by all members of the Ministry;

 5.6.1.3 stimulate and give guidance to the members of the Ministry in the work of their calling;

 5.6.1.4 foster fellowship between the members of the Ministry; and

 5.6.1.5 consider matters relating to the well-being of the Church.

5.6.2 The General Pastors Conference shall serve as a theological adviser to the General Synod and in fulfilment of such function

 5.6.2.1 shall consider those questions, issues and statements of a theological and confessional nature which appear on the agenda of the convention of the General Synod and are referred to it by the General Church Council;

 **5.6.2.2 shall recommend one or more of the following actions with respect to a question, issue or statement referred to in 5.6.2.1, namely:**

 **5.6.2.2.1 agreement or rejection;**

 **5.6.2.2.2 amendments;**

 **5.6.2.2.3 corrections;**

 **5.6.2.2.4 additions; or**

 **5.6.2.2.5 advice or explanations; and**

 5.6.2.~~2~~**3** may voice its opinion with regard to the advisability or non-advisability of dealing with any such question or issue or of adopting a particular statement~~;~~ **or motion.** ~~and~~

 ~~5.6.2.3 may recommend amendments, corrections, additions or explanations concerning proposed statements.~~

**REASONS FOR THE MOTION**

There has been a lack of clarity and consistency in the description of what is required of the Pastors’ Conference in respect of advice and recommendations to Synod.