

February 17, 2006



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Dear Christian Friends,

The reframing of our Constituting Documents, the Application for Letters Patent of Continuance and a new General Operating By-law were important items of business brought to Assembly 2005. After discussion on the floor, Assembly approved and authorized submission of these documents to Industry Canada for processing.

Subsequent to Assembly, the Board received submissions from Rev. Dr. Dan Gibson as well as some others voicing serious concerns about these documents. We appreciate the opportunity that we have had to visit directly with Dr. Gibson to hear more fully the nature of his concerns. The objections fall primarily into two areas: content and process. In addition to its regular meetings, the Board held a special meeting on February 17, 2006. After deliberation we recognize that there is some substance to issues which have been raised.

The Board of the BCOQ acknowledges:

1. That a better job of study and revision could have been done before the By-law documents were brought to Assembly 2005, so that Baptist Polity and Heritage could have been more faithfully represented in the documents.
2. That there are some who perceive that there were errors made in process. For instance, the approach chosen by the Board to receive suggestions for amendments to the By-law document rather than the amendments themselves may have been viewed by some to remove the rights of delegates to make amendments. It would have been better if the Chair had first asked Assembly for affirmation to proceed in this manner.

We genuinely regret the steps that might have caused concern, and are committed to moving forward cooperatively with actions that will see this process emerge in a manner that is fully understood and satisfactory to our Convention. Accordingly, the Board has:

1. Authorized the formation of a By-law Advisory Team, of which you have been previously made aware, to recommend amendments to the By-law which will better reflect our Baptist theological understanding, Baptist distinctives, and BCOQ values.
2. Agreed that the matter of our process will come under review, with an objective of developing Rules and Procedures which will be readily understood.

I appreciate hearing from you at any time with any suggestions/concerns/issues that will move us forward as we seek to serve together, Jesus, who is our Lord and Master.

In Christian Love and in His Service,

Evan Whitehead
BCOQ President