

TED recommendations on “Procedures for reconciliation and adherence in church governance: phase II” Voted Sunday, 19 November 2017 during Year-End Meetings in Bečići, Montenegro.

Preamble

This summary and motion was presented by the lay-members and voted by the TED Executive Committee at the TED Year End Meetings 2017. It reflects the experience at Annual Council 2017 where the document “Procedures for reconciliation and adherence in church governance: phase II” was presented. The lay-members in attendance strongly felt that the process was neither transparent nor fair. The principle reason for this was that the document was not given in advance. Fourteen pages of complex material was only read aloud, which is challenging even if English is your first language. However, for most members of the GC Executive Committee English is a foreign language.

As lay-members we would also like to emphasise that it is not, and has never been, the intention of the Trans European Division and its Unions to be rebellious or non-compliant.

Action 1

Whereas, a large number of the voting members do not have English as their mother tongue, and it is important that everybody should be able to have a clear understanding of what is to be voted:
VOTED: if it is not already addressed in working policy, to add to working policy that documents to be voted on in the Executive Committees of the GC and the Divisions, should be provided to the voting members of the committee in advance.

Action 2

Whereas the document – “procedures for reconciliation and adherence in church governance: Phase II states that if you do not sign to show compliance to GC Working Policy, you will lose your voice and vote, we question as to whether this is constitutional? It cannot be a democratic process if delegates are prevented from representing the opinions of the majority of their constituency. This could also be seen as against the law in some countries.

VOTED: that new documentation which will be presented to the GC Executive committee, shall be legally verified.

Action 3

Whereas the situation regarding the issue of unity appears to be in deadlock, with a large percentage of people on each side seeing this as a matter of belief and conscience.

Whereas a substantial amount of time has been expended on this,

Therefore, we recommend that we are no longer distracted by issues that, while important, will draw the focus from our mission, including nurture, retention and discipleship.

VOTED: we urge that the GC Administration declare a pause with immediate effect, at least until GC AC 2019, for the sake of the unity of the Church.

This pause is defined as follows:

- For GC, Divisions, Unions, Conferences to prayerfully conduct consultations and search for solutions for unity that can be supported and agreed upon by the GC administration and those whom they are consulting

- That the document “Procedures for reconciliation and adherence in church governance: phase II” is deferred and not discussed further.
- That during the pause the status quo in the Unions is maintained.
- That all concerned parties abstain from taking actions during the pause that will jeopardise the consultation process.