



Guidelines for Effective National Council Governance

National Council Members are Called to be Servant Leaders

¹ It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." ⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" ¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. ¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. – John 13: 1-17

Under the plan God has ordained for the church, leadership is a position of humble, loving service. Jesus says, "If you want to be first you must be a servant of all." Church leadership is ministry, not management. Those who would lead God's people must above all exemplify sacrifice, devotion, submission, and lowliness. Jesus Himself gave us the pattern when He stooped to wash His disciples' feet, a task that was customarily done by the lowest of slaves (John 13). Your vocation within this church body as an elected National Council member is to serve the members.

As elected leaders representing the larger church community, it is important for you to continue to develop an intimate relationship with God by regular prayer and disciplined Bible study.

National Council members are to protect and act in the interest of the Association – directing and enhancing the Association's mission, and connecting with and respecting the expectations of the people whom they serve. Thus, all of their decisions must be determined with wisdom that comes through the Holy Spirit's input leading while living with an attitude of integrity and humility before God.



Constitutional Requirements

According to Section 11.1 of Article Ten (*The National Council*) from CALC's Constitution, members of National Council are to be chosen for their:

- commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and to the divine inspiration, revelation, and inerrancy of the Scriptures,
- evidencing the fruit of the Spirit in life suitable to the function of the office,
- Spirit-bestowed gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and administrative ability, and
- full intention to uphold this Association's Confession (Article Three), Purpose (Article Five), and Constitution.

According to Section 13 of Article Ten from CALC's Constitution, the duties and responsibilities of the National Council are described as follows:

13.1 The National Council shall function as the legislative agency of this Association in the interim between General Conventions in order to deal with situations which necessitate action before the next General Convention. Legislative acts by the National Council shall require a majority vote of all its members and must be presented to the next General Convention for review.

13.2 The National Council shall receive reports and resolutions prepared by the various officers, jurisdictional units, councils, boards, and committees of this Association and shall, after consideration, transmit them to the General Convention with its recommendations.

13.3 The National Council shall consider disagreements which may arise and shall endeavour to resolve differences.

13.4 The National Council, after seeking proper counsel, shall determine whether any officer is unable to serve. If such a decision is challenged, it shall be referred immediately to the Board of Appeals and Adjudication whose decision shall be final.

13.5 The National Council, as the interim legislative agency of this Association, shall when requested, interpret the Constitution and Bylaws. Its interpretation shall be reported to the next General Convention for final decision.

13.6 Additional duties of the National Council shall be those stated in the Bylaws and elsewhere in this Constitution.



Guiding Principles

In order to effectively fulfill the mandate as elected National Council members, we promise to abide by the following guiding principles:

1. Act within the scope of CALC's governing documents and be familiar with CALC's Constitution & By-laws and rigorously uphold the same.
2. Attend National Council meetings regularly.
3. Be prepared to discuss the items on the agenda, and participate fully and constructively in making well-informed decisions.
4. Act reasonably, prudently and in good faith with a view to the best interests of CALC and of all of its members, placing personal agendas to the side.
5. Take an interest in finances by reviewing regular financial reports, and approving and monitoring the Association's annual budget.
6. Be proactive rather than reactive in our thinking.
7. Declare any real or perceived conflict of interest when the issue first arises, and do not vote, participate in or influence the decision-making process.
8. Act as one entity and speak with one unified voice in regards to decisions made at each National Council meeting. Loyal National Council members support the decisions of the National Council, even if they might not personally agree with the decisions and might not have voted to support the decisions at a National Council meeting. Once a decision has been made after a full and frank discussion, National Council members should present a common front.
9. Understand that what goes on in National Council meetings should stay in National Council meetings, apart from what is reported in National Council meeting minutes.
10. Be honest and forthright in our dealings with one another and with CALC's members.
11. Exercise, open, transparent and comprehensive communication – keep one another fully informed on matters pertaining to the oversight of the life and activities of the Association.
12. Conflicts or grievances among National Council members are to be resolved by open and frank discussion among the National Council members involved or the entire National Council or, if necessary, through the mediation of the President.