

Subject: Special Convention Regarding Churches Acting Outside Regional Fellowship Agreements

From: Fellowship Pacific Regional Board

Date: December 16, 2025

Dear Churches of Fellowship Pacific and friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Regional Board of Fellowship Pacific, acting in accordance with Bylaw 9 of our Society's Bylaws, at their board meeting on December 3, 2025, passed the following motion: *to call a special convention on Feb 7, 2026, calling for the removal of the following 8 churches from membership in Fellowship Pacific:*

- *Bethany Baptist Church - Barriere*
- *First Baptist Church - Kamloops*
- *New West Community Church*
- *Providence Baptist Church - Kelowna*
- *Renfrew Baptist Church - Vancouver*
- *Salt Spring Baptist Church*
- *Southside Baptist Church - Port Coquitlam*
- *Squamish Baptist Church*

It is with sorrow that we write to inform you that a Special Convention will be convened fifty-three days from the date of this letter to consider the motion and will take place on February 7, 2026, at SouthRidge Fellowship in Langley at 1pm. Details regarding delegate registration will be available on Fellowship Pacific's website beginning December 18. The package for the meeting will be sent out in early January 2026.

The Fellowship Pacific Board has sought, for more than a year, to walk patiently and prayerfully with these churches in ways that honour Christ and reflect the covenant commitments that shape our shared life. Recent public statements have produced confusion across our Region and beyond, and for the sake of truth, unity, and the health of our Fellowship, it is important to provide clarity.

Above all, we want to anchor this moment in a positive vision for our future together.

Our Positive Vision for Fellowship Pacific

Fellowship Pacific is a family of churches committed to gospel partnership, mutual trust, and voluntary cooperation. We affirm complementarianism as expressed in our 2005 policy: the office of Senior or Lead Pastor is reserved for qualified men. Within that framework, we gladly honour local church autonomy in discerning how complementarian convictions are applied. Our

commitment is to see both men and women use their gifts under biblical authority in ways that advance the gospel.

This vision preserves both unity and freedom. It allows churches with differing applications of complementarian theology to work together joyfully without imposing uniformity. We will continue to defend the right of every church in Fellowship Pacific to hold and practice its convictions within our shared policy, whether stronger or less strong, without fear of censure or pressure from others.

What we cannot accept is the insistence that churches in good standing be reformed or removed simply because they differ in secondary applications of complementarianism. Such actions violate the foundation of voluntary cooperation that makes joyful fellowship possible.

Clarifying the Situation

In recent months, a group of churches has circulated claims that they might be suspended for holding complementarian beliefs or for raising concerns. This is not true. Fellowship Pacific has repeatedly affirmed their right to hold and apply complementarian convictions within our policy, and has invested significant time in dialogue, listening, and clarification.

For clarity:

- They are not being considered for removal for complementarian theology.
- They are not being considered for removal for asking questions.
- They are not being considered for removal for disagreeing with regional leadership.
- They are not being considered for removal for upholding FEB National Bylaws.

The issue is not theology. The issue is conduct—actions that undermine the decisions of the constituency, violate shared commitments, and erode the trust required for partnership.

How We Reached This Point

At the April 2025 AGM, a motion was brought forward asking the Region to adopt a considerably narrower interpretation of complementarianism and make it binding on every church. The churches of Fellowship Pacific considered the motion and defeated it by an eighty percent vote. The constituency spoke clearly: our Region prefers complementarian unity anchored in the 2005 policy, not enforced uniformity, leaving all other decisions of governance and leadership up to the local church.

A second motion, passed from the floor, *"direct(ed) the Fellowship Board to follow up with the ten signatory churches who brought the motion forward today to see if they can joyfully fellowship with us moving forward in support of the decision that was reached today."* This directive shaped the Board's work moving forward.

To fulfill this mandate, the Board asked each church to affirm by September 15, 2025, their willingness to remain in joyful fellowship, honouring the 2005 policy and refraining from actions that perpetuate controversy or pressure other churches. The question was not theological—it was relational and cooperative.

Six churches—Renfrew Baptist, Southside Baptist, First Baptist Kamloops, Providence Baptist Kelowna, Squamish Baptist, and Salt Spring Baptist—declined to answer the question set before them and instead challenged the legitimacy of the process. These churches also coordinated with the previously suspended New West Community Church in lobbying nationally on this matter. Bethany Baptist in Barriere did not respond by the deadline and declined to provide an answer when followed up with. Two other churches, Port McNeill Baptist and Mountainview Baptist-Vancouver, requested additional time to deliberate, which the Regional Board has granted to them. Further, Lavington Baptist has voluntarily withdrawn their membership.

Subsequent Actions and Escalation

Following the Board's follow up process, these churches engaged in actions that strained fellowship far beyond theological disagreement. They were signatories to a national letter that contained significant misrepresentations of events and leadership within Fellowship Pacific and helped launch a website that contained videos and articles that disparaged regional leaders and cast doubt on the integrity of the Region's discernment and governance.

In addition, several leaders from churches in FEB Central sent a letter to our Regional Board urging us not to suspend or remove the churches involved, despite these matters being internal to Fellowship Pacific and clearly directed by the will of our own constituency. These leaders have not approached the Regional Board to seek clarity or understand the reasons for our decisions and may unfortunately be operating from a narrative shaped by misrepresentation rather than fact. While we value our partnership across Canada, churches in our Region should be aware that some of these groups may continue to organize and apply pressure on Fellowship Pacific churches regarding this issue. Such efforts, however well intended, risk undermining local church autonomy, regional governance, and the clear decisions already made by the churches of Fellowship Pacific. Our commitment remains to follow the direction of our own constituency and the policies that guide our Region.

These combined actions moved the matter beyond internal disagreement into sustained and public opposition.

Why the Regional Board Must Now Act

These behaviours constitute clear breaches of Fellowship Pacific's Code of Conduct, Partnership Agreement, and the Statement of Faith clause affirming that in matters of governance, the will of the local church is final. Instead of respecting the outcome of the AGM and the constituency's

directive to the Board, these churches sought to overturn that decision through public campaigning, national pressure, and continued escalation.

Because the constituency explicitly directed the Board to determine whether these churches could continue in joyful fellowship while respecting the AGM decision, and because these churches rejected that directive while actively opposing it, the Board is obligated to act.

The proposed removals are not punitive. They are protective—protective of our unity, our governance, our clarity of mission, and our shared witness. While the Board remains prayerfully open to repentance and restoration, joyful fellowship requires a shared commitment to the agreements that make partnership possible. Yet, repeated misrepresentations and divisive actions have made it clear that these churches are unwilling to accept the will of our churches as expressed on the convention floor.

As we look forward, our vision remains unchanged. Fellowship Pacific exists *to innovatively develop relationships and resources that propel all of our churches to be accountable to their gospel mandate*, supported by our ongoing commitment to:

- Biblical integrity under the authority and grace of Christ
- Congregational autonomy supported by shared commitments
- Theological breadth within the bounds of orthodoxy
- A cooperative posture rather than a controlling one
- A gospel-first mission that keeps the kingdom at the centre of all we do

Unfortunately, the actions of a minority have not only distracted us from this mission but have also injured the trust necessary to fulfill it. Yet even in this difficult moment, we see an opportunity to strengthen our fellowship. By recommitting ourselves to joyful cooperation, mutual trust, and a shared mission, we can step into the future with clarity and hope.

Conclusion

The actions leading to this Special Convention did not arise from complementarian theology but from behaviours that compromised unity and violated the cooperative commitments of fellowship. Our churches have already spoken clearly about the direction they believe Fellowship Pacific should take. The Board is now acting with conviction and care to protect that direction and to secure a healthy path forward.

May Christ, the true Head of the Church, be honoured in all we do.

With gratitude and hope,

On behalf of the Fellowship Pacific Regional Board
Rev. Ben Hall - Chair