

CHURCH RULES

ESTONIAN CHRISTIAN PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

ADOPTED

At the Annual Conference of
the Estonian Christian Pentecostal Church
on 24 March 2018 in Tallinn

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.1. The Church Rules approved by the Annual Conference of the Estonian Christian Pentecostal Church (ECPC) shall establish the procedure for ordaining ministers of the ECPC, rules of procedure of the Annual Conference and the Church Board, and other rules that may be necessary to lay down across the church.
- 1.2. The Church Rules shall include principles, values and regulations that we are guided by upon serving God and the people and upon organising joint activities.
- 1.3. The objective of the Church Rules shall to ensure the implementation of the objectives of the ECPC and the congregations.
- 1.4. The Church Rules shall be applicable to the ministers and members of congregations.
- 1.5. The Church Rules are available at the website of the ECPC www.eknk.ee.

2. PROCEDURE FOR ORDAINING THE MINISTERS OF THE ECPC

2.1. In general

- 2.1.1. The ECPC shall operate pursuant to the principle of general priesthood, at the same time recognising God's call to ministry.
- 2.1.2. Minister of the ECPC serves at a clergy position, the nature of which is foremost serving others.
- 2.1.3. Ordination is the public recognition and confirmation of the church regarding the call that the individual has received from God and the person's dedication to the calling.
- 2.1.4. Public recognition and confirmation shall take place by laying of hands at an ordination service or rite.
- 2.1.5. Ordination to an order is a one-time activity, which requires the preparedness of the ordainees to dedicate oneself to the calling of God.
- 2.1.6. Ordination shall be preceded by the preparation and assessing of the suitability of the candidate.
- 2.1.7. The orders of sanctification and ordination of the ECPC are the deacon, pastor, and bishop.

2.2. Ordination Committee

- 2.2.1. Ordination Committee shall be in charge of granting and suspending ordination, preparing ministers for ordination, and other matters associated with ordination.
- 2.2.2. Ordination Committee shall be permanently in operation.
- 2.2.3. Ordination Committee shall adopt decisions associated with ordination.
- 2.2.4. Ordination Committee shall organise the record-keeping of the ordainees and the ordinations at the ECPC.
- 2.2.5. Ordination Committee shall comprise three to five ministers, including all the individuals ordained as bishops at the ECPC. The Church Board shall appoint and recall individuals serving as members of the Committee, except for bishops.
- 2.2.6. In the event that a minister ordained as a bishop is unable to or does not wish to participate at the work of the Committee, they shall submit a respective written application to the Church Board who shall appoint a new Committee member if necessary.
- 2.2.7. Ordination Committee shall be convened by the chairman of the Committee at least twice a year. In the event of receiving an application for ordination and other issues associated with ordination, the Committee shall make a respective decision without two months.

- 2.2.8. The operations of the Committee shall be managed by the Head of the Church ordained as a bishop; in their absence by another bishop, or in the absence of bishops, by the senior dean.
- 2.2.9. Ordination Committee shall have a quorum if at least two-thirds of the members of the Committee participate in the decision-making process. Participation in the decision-making process is also permitted by way of means of communication (e-mail, phone).
- 2.2.10. Ordination Committee shall adopt decisions if a majority vote of two-thirds was cast in favour at a public vote by members participating at the decision-making process.
- 2.2.11. Decisions shall be recorded. The minutes shall be signed by the chairman of the Committee and the person taking the minutes.
- 2.2.12. The Head of the Church shall approve or reject ordination decisions with their written decision within one month after the Ordination Committee made its decision.
- 2.2.13. Decisions regarding granting, suspending or reinstating ordination are public.

2.3. Orders

2.4. Candidates

2.4.1. Deacon

- 2.4.1.1. A condition for becoming a deacon shall be at least 2 years of membership at the ECPC and professional education.
- 2.4.1.2. Pastor shall submit a form for ordination as a deacon/form for recognising ordination (Appendix 1) together with a questionnaire for a spiritual overseer (Appendix 2) and with a questionnaire for two different references (Appendix 3) to the Ordination Committee.
- 2.4.1.3. In the event of a positive decision of the Ordination Committee, ordination shall be performed by at least two pastors or ministers ordained as a bishop.
- 2.4.1.4. Deacon is a servant of the congregation who is guided by the instructions of the pastor in their work.
- 2.4.1.5. As an ordained minister of the church, the deacon shall be an example with their life and service.
- 2.4.1.6. One prerequisite for the order of a deacon shall be serving as a chaplain in the Defence Forces, at a detention facility, the police, or a hospital.

2.4.2. Pastor

- 2.4.2.1. A condition for becoming a candidate shall be at least 5 years of membership at an ECPC congregation, professional education, and at least 3-year ordination as a deacon or, in the absence of the latter, at least 3 years of experience in leading a congregation.
- 2.4.2.2. Dean shall submit a form for ordination as a pastor/form for recognising ordination (Appendix 1) together with a questionnaire for a spiritual overseer (Appendix 2) and with a questionnaire for two different references (Appendix 3) to the Ordination Committee.
- 2.4.2.3. In the event of a positive decision of the Ordination Committee, ordination shall be performed by the bishop and two ministers ordained as pastors.
- 2.4.2.4. Pastor is a spiritual leader and shepherd.
- 2.4.2.5. As an ordained minister of the church, the first calling of the pastor shall be to serve and protect the people entrusted to them and to guide them to live as dedicated followers of Jesus Christ.
- 2.4.2.6. One prerequisite for the order of a pastor shall be serving as a dean in the Defence Forces, at a detention facility, the police, or a hospital.

2.4.3. Bishop

- 2.4.3.1. A condition for becoming a candidate shall be at least 10 years of membership at an ECPC congregation, professional education, and at least 7 years of experience as a pastor as well as at least 3 years of experience in participating in the operations of the Church Board.
- 2.4.3.2. The Church Board shall submit a form for ordination as a bishop/form for recognising ordination (Appendix 1) together with a questionnaire for a spiritual overseer (Appendix 2) and with questionnaire for two different references (Appendix 3) to the Ordination Committee.

- 2.4.3.3. In the event of a positive decision of the Ordination Committee, ordination shall be performed by at least one bishop.
- 2.4.3.4. Bishop is a spiritual leader and shepherd of the church.
- 2.4.3.5. As an ordained minister of the church, the first calling of the bishop shall be to serve and lead ministers and to be an example to them as a humble, self-sacrificial and dedicated servant of Jesus Christ.
- 2.4.3.6. All bishops of the church shall participate in the operations of the Ordination Committee.

2.5. Practice of ordaining

- 2.5.1. Ordination has taken place following the laying of hands on the ordainee at a public practice.
- 2.5.2. The ordainer shall notify the Ordination Committee of the performance of the ordination in writing within seven days, Notice of the performance of ordination (Appendix 4).

2.6. Recognising the order of other confessions

- 2.6.1. According to the orders, the following shall be submitted to the Ordination Committee in order to recognise the ordination of a minister that has joined the ECPC from another confession at the ECPC: form for ordination/form for recognising ordination (Appendix 1) together with a questionnaire for a spiritual overseer (Appendix 2) and a questionnaire for two different references (Appendix 3).
- 2.6.2. A prerequisite for recognising an ordination shall be at least 3 years of membership at the ECPC and recognition of the Articles of Association and the Church Rules of the ECPC.
- 2.6.3. Upon the recognition of the ordination, the individual shall become a minister of the ECPC.

3. RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

3.1. General provisions

- 3.1.1. These rules of procedure of the Annual Conference of the ECPC shall specify the activity(-ies) of the Annual Conference.
- 3.1.2. Annual Conference of the ECPC shall be the highest governing body of the church.
- 3.1.3. Annual Conference shall comprise the delegates authorised by congregations as well as ministers ordained as bishops.
- 3.1.4. According to the Articles of Association, the Annual Conference shall be competent to approve the Head of the Church and the Church Board, and to elect the auditor or an audit committee, as well as other activities set out in the Articles of Association.

3.2. Preparing for the Annual Conference

- 3.2.1. Annual Conference shall be convened by the Head of the Church at least once a year by notifying the congregations thereof together with announcing the planned agenda at least one month in advance. An extraordinary Annual Conference may be convened pursuant to clause 6.2.8 of the Articles of Association.
- 3.2.2. Materials requiring a decision shall be sent at least one month in advance. Pastor shall be liable for ensuring that the delegates nominated by the pastor have the opportunity to inspect the agenda and the materials in advance.
- 3.2.3. Congregations shall submit their delegates to the Annual Conference to the Centre of the ECPC at least 10 days before the Annual Conference is to take place. Based on the list of participating delegates, the assistant to the Centre of the ECPC shall draw up a quorum list that shall be appended to the minutes of the Annual Conference. Changes to the delegates can only be registered on site pursuant to a written confirmation of the pastor.
- 3.2.4. The agenda shall include at least the following: electing the bodies of the Annual Conference (chairman, person taking the minutes, vote counters in case of personal voting), presentation of the Head of the Church, report by the auditor.
- 3.2.5. Proposals regarding changes to the agenda shall be submitted to the Centre of the ECPC at least 10 days before the Annual Conference is to take place. Extraordinary proposals regarding changes to the agenda may be submitted at the Annual Conference, provided that something important becomes evident following the deadline for the submission of proposals and it falls within the

competence of the Annual Conference according to the Articles of Association.

3.3. Delegates to the Annual Conference

- 3.3.1. Delegates to the Annual Conference shall be submitted by the pastor of the congregation. The pastor may represent the congregation themselves or together with other representatives according to the number of congregation members. Delegates to the Annual Conference shall be the ordained bishops of the ECPC.
- 3.3.2. Criteria established for the delegates are set out in the Articles of Association.
- 3.3.3. Each delegate to the Annual Conference shall have one vote.
- 3.3.4. Delegates shall arrive at the Annual Conference on time, prepared and informed.

3.4. Carrying out, agenda and taking minutes of the Annual Conference

- 3.4.1. Chairman of the Annual Conference shall be the Head of the Church of the ECPC or a Board member appointed by the Head of the Church. In their absence, the Annual Conference shall elect a chairman.
- 3.4.2. At the start of the Annual Conference, the person taking the minutes and the vote counters shall be elected and the agenda shall be approved.
- 3.4.3. The approved agenda shall serve as a basis for the operations of the Annual Conference. The chairman of the Annual Conference shall commence with processing the agenda items following the approval of the agenda. Processing an agenda item shall include a presentation, discussion in the form of questions and statements, and making a decision. Delegates and others participating at the Annual Conference who have the right to make statements according to the Articles of Association shall be entitled take the floor.
- 3.4.4. The time and place of the Annual Conference, participants, agenda, summaries of discussions, and decisions shall be recorded in the minutes. The minutes shall be preserved permanently.
- 3.4.5. At the request of a delegate, their position or voting decision in agenda matters shall be recorded in the minutes.
- 3.4.6. The person taking the minutes may make recordings of the Annual Conference only for the purpose or drawing up the minutes properly. The recording shall not be preserved.
- 3.4.7. The minutes shall be signed by the chairman of the Annual Conference and the person taking the minutes.
- 3.4.8. The minutes together with appendices thereto shall be available to the congregations via the delegates. Decisions adopted at the Annual Conference shall be published on the church's website.

4. RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CHURCH BOARD

4.1. General provisions

- 4.1.1 The Church Board shall manage the church during the period in between the Annual Conferences, acting on the decisions of the Annual Conference.
- 4.1.2 The Church Board shall be competent to address topics associated with the ministers, teachings and economics as well as make respective decisions.

4.2. Board members and their status, rights and obligations

- 4.2.1 The term of office for a Board member shall be three years. In the event of replacing the Head of the Church, the Board members appointed by the Head of the Church shall be recalled.
- 4.2.2 Powers of a Board member
 - 4.2.2.1 The powers of a Board member shall enter into force as of adopting a decision of the Annual Conference and shall expiry upon a decision of the Annual Conference.
 - 4.2.2.2 Suspending the powers at the initiative of the Board member shall require the submission of the Board member's application to the Board and the respective decision of the Board. In the event that a contract has been entered into with a Board member, the powers shall expire according to the provisions of the contract.
 - 4.2.2.3 In the event that a Board member materially harms the interests and reputation of the church, the Board shall initiate the procedure for recalling the Board member and convene an

extraordinary Annual Conference.

4.2.2.4 Board member shall not have the right to delegate their powers.

4.2.2.5 Dean who is a Board member pursuant to their position shall continue as a Board member upon electing a new dean until the next Annual Conference suspends the powers of the Board member. A newly elected dean shall be approved as a Board member for three years at the next Annual Conference.

4.2.3 Rights of Board member

4.2.3.1 A contract with a board member or an authorisation agreement may be entered into with them and they may be paid remuneration for the work performed;

4.2.3.2 Right to receive compensation for expenses associated with the duties of the Board; Right to make proposals for amending, supplementing or removing agenda items of the meeting of the Board of the ECPC;

4.2.3.3 Right to make proposals for improving the operations of the ECPC.

4.2.4 Obligations of a Board member

4.2.4.1 Obligation to actively participate at board meetings and arrive at the meeting prepared as best as possible; Board member shall examine the agenda and materials of the meeting and familiarise themselves with potential decisions arising from the agenda as well as their effect on the ECPC in advance.

4.2.4.2 Obligation to be careful (due diligence of a governing body) and to make work in the Board an important priority;

4.2.4.3 Board member shall keep abreast of the goings-on in the organisation as well as its area of activity.

4.3. Meeting, preparing and carrying it out, and making decisions

4.3.1. Board meeting

4.3.1.1. Board meeting shall be the principal work format of the Church Board.

4.3.1.2. Board meetings shall take place once a month, except for July and August.

4.3.1.3. The Head of the Church shall submit the times and locations of Board meetings for the next season (from September to June) to the Board for approval at the September meeting.

4.3.1.4. The location of the Board meeting shall generally be the Centre of the ECPC. The Board may organise field sessions in other locations.

4.3.1.5. Board members shall notify the assistant to the Head of the Church of the ECPC of circumstances preventing their participation no later than 5 days before the meeting.

4.3.1.6. Participation at the meeting (arrival and departure of the Board members at the meeting) shall be recorded by the assistant to the Head of the Church in the minutes of the Board meeting.

4.3.2. Preparing the agenda of the meeting

4.3.2.1. The agenda shall be a tool for the Board meeting.

4.3.2.2. The Head of the Church shall prepare the agenda and submit it to the Board members for making proposals, supplements and amendments together with additional materials seven days before the meeting is to take place.

4.3.2.3. An agenda item requiring a decision shall meet the following requirements: problem statement, draft decisions, supporting documents if necessary.

4.3.2.4. Board members shall submit proposals for supplements and amendments to the assistant to the Head of the Church no later than two working days before the meeting.

4.3.2.5. The Board may add extraordinary agenda items to the agenda in the event that the issue is urgent and at least two-thirds of the Board members participating at the meeting consent to adding it into the agenda.

4.3.2.6. The agenda shall be approved at the start of the meeting and shall be taken as a basis for the meeting.

4.3.2.7. Agenda items that were not discussed shall either be addressed at an extraordinary meeting or shall be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

4.3.3. Carrying out the meeting

4.3.3.1. The Board meeting shall be convened by the Head of the Church in writing.

4.3.3.2. The Board meeting shall be led by the Head of the Church, Vice Chairman of the Church

Board, or a Board member appointed by the Head of the Church.

4.3.3.3. Individuals invited by the chairman of the meeting who are not Board members shall be entitled to participate at the meeting with the right to take the floor.

4.3.3.4. Relevant individuals may be invited to participate at a discussion of an agenda item.

4.3.3.5. Board member shall have the right to invite guests with the approval of the Head of the Church.

4.3.3.6. As a rule, agenda items shall be processed as follows: presentation, statements, counterarguments, comments, and making a decision.

4.3.3.7. Board member shall not participate in discussing or voting on agenda items that decide on undertaking a transaction with them or with a person that has an economic interest that is equal to theirs, initiating or terminating a court action with regard to them.

4.3.4. Adopting decisions

4.3.4.1. The meeting shall have a quorum if two-thirds of the Board members are present.

4.3.4.2. Each Board member shall have one vote.

4.3.4.3. The meeting shall generally adopt decisions with simple majority, except for special cases provided for in the Articles of Association or the rules of procedure of the Board.

4.3.4.4. In the event that the Head of the Church participates in voting and the votes of Board members are divided equally, the Head of the Church shall have a casting vote.

4.3.4.5. In the event that the Head of the Church does not participate in voting but the voting results of Board members are divided equally, the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

4.3.4.6. Elections of individuals shall be secret. Other sensitive decisions and decisions concerning individuals may be carried out with a secret ballot upon the proposal of a Board member and with the decision of the Board (simple majority).

4.3.4.7. In the event of a secret ballot, assistant to the Head of the Church or the person taking the minutes shall prepare the ballots.

4.3.4.8. In the event of electing individuals, the persons shall be specified in the ballot in alphabetical order. In the event of other matters to be voted on with a secret ballot, the wording of the ballot shall be agreed upon at the meeting with a decision of the Board.

4.3.4.9. The person taking the minutes shall read the voting results out loud to the meeting, after which the results shall be recorded in the minutes as a decision of the meeting.

4.3.5. Adopting decisions without convening a meeting

4.3.5.1. In order to adopt decisions without convening a meeting, the Head of the Church or a person standing in for them shall send to the Board members a draft decision and materials necessary for making a decision and shall specify a deadline for responding, which shall be no shorter than three working days.

4.3.5.2. Draft decision, materials and response of a Board member may be sent electronically or as a paper copy. Responses sent by the Board members shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at the next board meeting.

4.3.5.3. Quorum necessary for adopting a decision shall be formed of the respondents by the deadline set out in clause 3.5.1.

4.3.6. Requirements for minutes and publishing information about a decision of the meeting

4.3.6.1. The participants, agenda, summaries of discussions, and decision of the meeting shall be recorded in the minutes. The minutes shall be preserved permanently.

4.3.6.2. At the request of a Board member, their position or voting decision in agenda matters shall be recorded in the minutes.

4.3.6.3. The minutes shall be taken by the assistant to the Head of the Church or a person appointed by the chairman of the meeting.

4.3.6.4. The meeting shall be recorded and the recordings shall be preserved for at least one year. The recordings shall be available only to the Board members and the auditors.

4.4. Important areas of responsibility of the Board

4.4.1. Electing the Head of the Church

4.4.1.1. The procedure for electing the Head of the Church shall be initiated with the decision of the Board in the event that the previous Head of the Church resigns or is recalled or in the event

that there is no Head of the Church.

4.4.1.2. Candidate for the Head of the Church may be submitted by each Board member with the candidate's consent.

4.4.1.3. Candidate for the Head of the Church shall comply with the terms and conditions for applying for the ordination of a bishop.

4.4.1.4. Candidate or candidates for the Head of the Church shall introduce their vision and plan of action for leading the church and respond to the questions of the Board members at the Board meeting that takes place at least three months before the Board meeting where the Head of the Church is elected. Board members shall look for God's will in prayer, fasting, discussions, etc. in order to prepare themselves for making the decision.

4.4.1.5. The Head of the Church shall be elected at a Board meeting where the candidate or candidates have another opportunity to speak and they can be asked further questions. A discussion of the Board shall take place after answering questions and before the vote.

4.4.1.6. The Church Board shall elect the Head of the Church with a majority vote of three-fourths at a secret ballot at the Board meeting that takes place at least two months before the Annual Conference.

4.4.1.7. In the event that there is more than one candidate and neither candidate receives three-fourths of the votes of the Board members, a repeat vote shall be carried out between the candidates who received the most votes. In the event that the votes are divided equally between the candidates, the Board shall draw lots on which candidate advances to the next round.

4.4.1.8. In the event that there is one candidate and they do not receive three-fourths of the votes of the Board members, a repeat vote shall take place at the next Board meeting. Meeting for a repeat vote shall take place no earlier than seven days after the last meeting. In the event that the candidate does not receive a majority vote of three-fourths at the repeat vote, the process of electing the Head of the Church shall start from the beginning.

4.4.1.9. The Board shall submit the elected Head of the Church to the Annual Conference for approval.

4.4.1.10. A majority vote of at least three-fourths of the delegates present at the Annual Conference shall be required to approve the Head of the Church.

4.4.2. Budget proceedings

4.4.2.1. A decision shall be adopted at the September meeting of the Church Board, specifying the following:

- a) strategic guidelines (priorities, limit values, or other important indicators that the persons who are drawing up the draft budget shall be guided by) for drawing up the church budget;
- b) person or members of the working group and head of the working group responsible for drawing up the church budget;
- c) persons responsible for subsidiaries, projects, etc. who submit their sub-budgets to the Church Board for review and approval pursuant to the Articles of Association of the ECPC;
- d) deadline for submitting the draft budgets (budgets for church and division projects, etc.) to the Church Budget for prior examination, which shall be no later than the deadline for submitting materials for the November meeting of the Church Board.
- e) Budget shall be submitted to the Board for examination together with explanations, which provide an overview of the nature of major cost and profit items as well as:
 - i. Justifications for new or lapsed costs in comparison with the previous period;
 - ii. Explanations regarding changes to the budget in areas where the change is higher than 10% in comparison with the previous period;
 - iii. Explanations regarding all budgetary positions where the annual total amount exceeds €10,000;
 - iv. Explanations regarding the budget for personnel costs by positions.

4.4.2.2. Immediately following the adoption of the decision specified in the previous clause, an e-mail shall be sent to relevant individuals, enabling them to start preparing the draft budgets.

4.4.2.3. The Head of the Church shall cooperate with the persons drawing up the budget, taking

care that they have all the relevant information available to them.

4.4.2.4. The Church Board shall discuss the draft budget at the first reading at the November meeting where the persons who drew up the budget or the head of the respective working group shall also participate in order to provide explanations.

4.4.2.5. The Church Board shall be entitled to approve the budget at the first reading or send it back with amendment proposals, specifying deadlines which enable discussing the respective amendments at the next meeting of the Church Board.

4.4.2.6. The Church Board shall approve the budget at the second reading at the December meeting.

4.4.2.7. In the event that the Church Board does not approve the budget for the next year at the December meeting, the Head of the Church shall submit to the relevant responsible persons instructions for a temporary budget for up to three months of the new budgetary period by the start of the new budgetary period at the latest.

5. PROCEDURE FOR STARTING A CONGREGATION AND JOINING THE ECPC

5.1. General provisions

5.1.1 Establishing a congregation starts with the activities of the person and/or initiative group establishing the congregation who take up spiritual work with the purpose of establishing a congregation and who at the same time cooperate with the dean and resource congregation(s) in their area.

5.2. Foundation meeting

5.2.1. In the event that individuals participating in the commenced spiritual work are prepared to act as a congregation according to the Articles of Association of the ECPC, a foundation meeting shall be held.

5.2.2 The congregation shall hold a foundation meeting in cooperation with the dean of the area where at least 12 adult persons with active legal capacity (clause 4.2.7.1 of the Articles of Association of the ECPC), who shall become the members of the congregation to be established, participate and sign the memorandum of association.

5.2.3 In the event that a member of the foundation meeting is a member of another congregation of the ECPC, they shall leave the other congregation (clause 4.2.6 of the Articles of Association of the ECPC).

5.2.4 At the dean's proposal (at the dean's written proposal if the dean is not present at the foundation meeting), the foundation meeting shall approve the pastor of the congregation who is also a member of the congregation to be established.

5.2.5 Foundation meeting shall elect the other members of the board and decide on the specifics of the right of representation of the board at the pastor's proposal and according to the Articles of Association of the ECPC (clause 8.4).

5.2.6 Foundation meeting shall elect an auditor of the congregation according to the Articles of Association of the ECPC (clause 8.5).

5.2.7 Foundation meeting shall decide on the name of the congregation to be established, which shall be the (name of the congregation) Congregation of the Estonian Christian Pentecostal Church and which shall operate pursuant to the Articles of Association of the ECPC.

5.2.8. Foundation meeting shall make the decision to join the Estonian Christian Pentecostal Church and authorise the board of the established congregation to submit a relevant application to the Board of the ECPC.

5.3. Joining of an existing congregation with the ECPC

5.3.1 In cooperation with the dean of the area of the ECPC, the congregation shall hold a general meeting where they make a decision to join the ECPC according to the Articles of Association of the ECPC pursuant to their own applicable Articles of Association.

5.3.2 General meeting shall approve the governing bodies of the existing congregation who shall become the governing bodies of the congregation to join the ECPC who are, pursuant to the Articles of Association of the ECPC, the pastor, the board, and the auditor of the congregation.

5.3.3 General meeting shall decide on the name of the congregation to be established, which shall be the (name of the congregation) Congregation of the Estonian Christian Pentecostal Church and which shall operate pursuant to the Articles of Association of the ECPC.

5.3.4. General meeting shall make the decision to join the Estonian Christian Pentecostal Church and authorise the board of the congregation to submit a relevant application (application form with all the necessary data shall be appended) to the Board of the ECPC.

5.4. Registering the congregation

5.4.1 Documents of establishing a congregation together with an application to become a member of the ECPC (the application form shall be appended) shall be submitted to the Board of the ECPC for approval by the board of the congregation. The Board shall make the decision on whether to accept the congregation to the ECPC, and in the event of a positive decision, the ECPC shall submit an application to enter the congregation into the national registry of religious associations.

5.4.2 In the event of registering the congregation, the congregation shall receive a number and status of a legal person from the registry, pursuant to which the board shall obtain the right to open a bank account and carry out legal acts.

5.4.3 The congregation shall have a voting right at the Annual Conference if the congregation does not have a registration number yet, but a foundation meeting has been carried out (has taken place), the application of the congregation has reached the Board of the ECPC who has made a positive decision and submitted an application to a court register but has not yet received a registration number for the congregation.

5.4.4 Congregation accepted to the ECPC shall be blessed at the Annual Conference of the ECPC following the decision to accept the congregation by the Board.