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Minimum Standards for Candidates for Church Elections

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A9) Minimum Standards for Candidates for Church Elections

The Prophetic Forum for the Life and Witness of Churches (PFLWC) in South India, at its fourth workshop in Chennai, India, on 27-28 November 2009 under the theme 'Towards a Second Reformation of Churches in India', proposed 'Twelve minimum standards for candidates for election to the Church Synod' (see chapter 3.1.1):

1. Persons who do not have against them a history of well-documented charges of corruption, maladministration, receiving of bribes and gifts, favouritism and nepotism especially in respect of family members.
2. Those who do not follow a lavish lifestyle and who eschew undue publicity and discourage sycophancy.
3. Those who have a desire for reconciliation and peacemaking and are willing to bring an end to long standing litigations through negotiations.
4. Those who are willing to take seriously charges of corruption irrespective of the status of the persons against whom the charges are made and initiate a genuine inquiry.
5. Those who will declare an immediate moratorium on sales and lease of CSI TA properties, pending a thorough investigation into the status of permission so far granted for such actions in relation to the conditions on which permission was granted.
6. Those who will promote the autonomy of institutions of the churches and prevent commercialisation and exploitation of educational and health services of these institutions and their properties.
7. Those who will promote transparency and accountability in administration.

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8. Those who are willing to set an example to others by declaring their assets and that of their immediate family members.
9. Those who will make their responsibility in the church as their first priority and reduce engagements which encroach upon their time.
10. Those who will not make unprincipled pacts and bargains with power mongers at the time of elections and in sum.
11. Those who aspire to be true servants of the servant Lord.
12. Those who refrain from victimising those who question them and criticise them with good intentions.²⁸⁵

²⁸⁵ Prophetic Forum for the Life and Witness of Churches (PFLWC), "Report and Recommendations of the Workshop on 'Towards a Second Reformation of Churches in India'", Chennai, 27-28 November 2009, 4-5.