



# Faith Church Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Introduced at June 5, 2022 Annual Meeting

## What are Bylaws?

Faith Church Bylaws are simply our family rules that ensure we function at the highest level of accountability, while also ensuring that we take practical steps to help people find and follow Jesus. Elders review the Bylaws periodically and propose various changes that reflect current protocols, title changes, etc. Some of these changes are simply formatting or punctuation revisions while others reflect directional changes as we continue to scale our growth.

## What is the process for amendments to Faith Church Bylaws?

Article VI of the current Bylaws states the following:

*Amendment(s) of these Bylaws requires two congregational meetings. The amendment(s) shall be introduced at a first congregational meeting, but shall not be voted on until a subsequent congregational meeting. Revisions to the amendment as a result of the first meeting will not require a second introductory meeting. The amendment(s) and/or revised amendment(s) shall then be voted upon at a second congregational meeting. Both meetings shall be announced in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Section A., 2.*

The proposed amendments were introduced to the membership at the June 5, 2022, Annual Meeting, posted on the website on June 5, 2022, and emailed to all Members by June 6, 2022.

The Elders held a Bylaws Q&A Meeting on August 30, 2022, 7-8pm, in advance of a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 25, 2022, to approve the new Bylaws.

## What Bylaws amendments are the Elders proposing?

The proposed changes can be found in the following areas:

### I. CORE BELIEFS

- Formatting change: Numbers be removed and replaced with Core Belief names to reflect how Core Beliefs are formatted and reflected on the EFCA website
- Under the Core Belief 'Christ's Return': The word "premillennial" be changed to "glorious"

### III. MEMBERSHIP

- Under Section A and Section B: Semi-colons have been replaced with periods in each bullet statement
- Under Section A, 1a: The phrase "manifest evidence of the new birth" be changed to "show evidence of a new life"
- Under Section E, 1a-d: Semi-colons be removed

### IV. GOVERNANCE

- Under Section A, 1a-c: Semi-colons be removed
- Under Section A, 1a: The phrase "Appointment and dismissal of the Lead Pastor, Executive Pastor, and Elders" be changed to "Appointment and dismissal of the Lead Pastor and Elders"

- Section A, 1c: Entire statement (Purchase and sale of land and buildings) be removed, added under Elder Responsibility in Article IV, Section B, 3g, and changed to “Approve the purchase, sale, lease, or encumbrance of real estate”
- Section A, 2a-f: Statements be reordered to reflect a more chronological timeline
- Under Section A, 2c (formerly 2f): The phrase “Voting by absentee ballot shall be permitted for all members provided the ballot is received prior to the start of the meeting” be changed to “Voting by absentee or electronic means shall be permitted for all members.”
- Under Section A, 2d: The phrase “Ten percent of the Membership physically present at congregational meetings shall constitute a quorum” be changed to “Ten percent or more of the total Membership voting shall serve as quorum” to allow online voting to count toward a quorum
- Under Section A, 2g: Entire statement (“In all matters of business pertaining to the Church, the latest version of Robert’s Rules of Order shall serve as a guideline in congregational meetings.”) be removed
- Under Section B, 1a: The phrase “The composition of the Elders shall consist of at least six laymen and two ex officio members, the Lead Pastor and the Executive Pastor” be changed to “The composition of the Elders shall consist of at least six laymen and the Lead Pastor” because the Executive Pastor staff position no longer exists
- Under Section B, 2a-b: Semi-colons be removed
- Under Section B, 1e: “Faith Church” be changed to “the Church” to reflect language used in the Introduction of the Bylaws
- Under Section B, 3a: The phrase “Operate under the confines of the Elder Governance Policies” be added
- Under Section B, 3b (formerly 3a): The phrase “In conjunction with the Lead Pastor establish the vision and provide direction for the Church” be reordered to “Establish the vision and provide direction for the Church in conjunction with the Lead Pastor” to reflect the same sentence structure as the other Responsibilities listed in this section
- Under Section B, 3g: The phrase “Approve the purchase, sale, lease, or encumbrance of real estate” be added here (as it was removed from Membership Responsibilities)
- Under Section B, 3i (formerly 3g): The phrase “Appoint and dismiss associate pastors upon the recommendation of the Lead Pastor” be changed to “Appoint and dismiss executive-level staff upon the recommendation of the Lead Pastor as outlined in Governance Policy 1 - Executive Limitations.”
- Under Section B, 3l: The phrase “Maintain the records of all Elder and congregational meetings” be added to Elder Responsibility (no longer just the secretary responsibility)
- Under Section B, 4a: The phrase “The officers of the Elders shall be the chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary” be changed to “The Elders shall elect the officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary) of the Elders annually.”
- Under Section B, 4b: The statement “The chairman shall call Elder meetings, approve agendas, and chair all meetings of the Elders and of the congregation. The chairman, or his designee, shall represent the Elders and the congregation in matters of business outside the Church” be changed to “The Elder or his designee shall call Elder meetings, approve agendas, and chair all Elder and congregational meetings.” This revision allows the Chairman the opportunity to assign a designee which allows the removal of the following bullet statement (formerly B, 4c stating “The vice-chairman shall fulfill the duties of the chairman in the event that the chairman is unable to fulfill his duties”).
- Under Section B, 4c: The phrase (formerly part of Section B, 4b) “The chairman, or his designee, shall represent the Elders and the congregation in matters of business outside the Church” be moved to its own line as 4c
- Section B, 4d: Entire statement (“The secretary shall maintain the records of all Elder and congregational meetings”) be removed to reflect change in Article IV, Section B, 3l where Elders will also maintain records