

MEETING MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE OF LIFE CHURCH THAT WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M.

All members were present.

The meeting was called to order and Jerry opened up with prayer.

Upon motion by Norm, and second by Jerry, the minutes from the Nov 13, 2019 meeting were approved by the committee without amendment.

The committee picked up where they had left off last week; discussing the question of having women as elders. Pastor Tom was given the floor and he gave an overview of many examples of women being used by God throughout the Bible in ministries including prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, and mercy. In concluding, he recommended the committee really take the time to digest all aspects of this important issue and not to rush to a decision.

The committee then went around the room and each member was given the opportunity to offer their thoughts and perspectives on the issue. Opinions were varied. Some were undecided. Others were leaning in a certain direction, but still seeking God's wisdom and leading. Still others felt they had studied the issue, formed their conclusions, and were at peace with their position.

Scriptures were offered by several members to make points and foster discussion. One person cautioned that we must be careful of the danger in convincing ourselves that we can know exactly what Paul was thinking in his mind when he penned the verses we were contemplating. As elders represent the headship of the church, more than one person suggested we use the Biblical model of the husband/wife relationship as a point of reference for this topic.

There did seem to be a consensus that, regardless of how we ultimately vote on this question, the new governance structure had to prioritize fostering an environment with stronger lines of communication between women and leadership, such that their voices will not only be heard, but will also be welcomed.

Pastor Tom recommended that the committee hold a joint meeting with the Transition Team on this question so that we can provide an overview of our current deliberations, and we can hear the perspectives of Transition Team members. Pastor Tom will finalize the details, but it will likely happen the evening of Dec 3.

A discussion then ensued surrounding what formal opportunities for women might be instituted in the new governance framework to serve at higher levels of ministry, if elders remained men only. This transitioned to revisiting the one board vs. two boards discussion from an earlier meeting. An alternative offered in the two board framework was a corporate board (with the members perhaps given the title of Deacons/Deaconesses) that could be composed of both men and women, but would serve under the authority of the elders to administer and oversee the daily

activities of the church including financial management, facilities maintenance, human resources, etc. Given the time, the issue was tabled for discussion at our next meeting.

Upon motion, the committee voted to forgo the weekly meeting on Nov 28 due to the Thanksgiving holiday and meet again on Dec 4.

Upon motion by Derk, and second by Norm, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Todd Broyles
Secretary