

MEETING MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE OF LIFE CHURCH THAT WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M.

All members were present.

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

Upon motion by Galen, and second by Jerry, the minutes from the Nov 20, 2019 meeting were approved by the committee without amendment.

A summary of the previous night's meeting with the Transition Team was given for the benefit of the members who weren't able to attend. The consensus was that the meeting was very beneficial, as both teams were able to gain a much better appreciation for what was on the hearts and minds of the individuals from the other team.

Pastor Tom carried a message from the Transition Team recommending that the executive staff from each team meet together and jointly develop the process to communicate the final draft of the by-laws to the congregation, as well as nominate and elect our new Board of Elders. The committee agreed it was a good idea and will work with the Transition Team to establish the date of the first meeting.

The committee then picked up where they had left off last time; discussing the question of having women as elders. It was noted that a common theme from a number of Transition Team members (from the night before) was for the Governance Team to "slow down", really digest the issue, and not rush to a decision. With that, the committee went around the room and each person was asked their level of conviction on where each was at on the question, and if they had studied the issue sufficiently to be at peace with that conviction. It was also noted that we must consider how the congregation at large might respond to this change if it were adopted. Seven members indicated a strong enough conviction to be comfortable voting, one was still undecided but knew how he would vote if it took place immediately, and one didn't really have a conviction either way but was comfortable with either alternative. Todd then made a motion that the by-laws retain the current language stating that the Board of Elders would be composed of male members only. The motion was seconded by Norm, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The committee then moved back to an earlier discussion surrounding the qualifications for Elders. During the discussion a consensus developed around the idea of not over-prescribing the qualifications for Elders in the by-laws beyond what is already given to us in Scripture. It was thought best that the by-laws simply reference Scripture, and it would fall to the vetting authority to prayerfully consider each nominee through the lens of the referenced Scriptures, and with the leading of the Holy Spirit. The committee then decided the Elder qualifications in the by-laws should simply state that Elders must:

- 1) Be a male
- 2) Be a member in good standing with the Church
- 3) Reflect the qualifications and attributes as stated in Titus 1:6-9, 1 Tim 3:1-7, Matt 20:26-28, 1 Pet 5:1-4, and Acts 20:28

The committee then circled back to an earlier discussion on the overall governance structure; specifically whether we should have a single board overseeing all matters, or two boards (one focusing on spiritual matters and one on corporate matters). The discussion revealed that support for the two board model was fading, and the committee coalesced around the idea of a single Elder Board. But this was with the caveat that we develop some kind of committee structure, under the authority of the Elders, where committee membership would include women leaders in our fellowship.

With that, the committee moved on to the question of the number of Elders. After discussion, Todd made a motion, with a second by Galen, to have a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 9 Elders on the board, with the Senior Pastor being included in that number (the Senior Pastor would be a permanent member of the board).

During that discussion, Dave made an amendment, with a second by Jerry, to require that the Senior Pastor, as the overall Shepherd of the church, also be the permanent Chairman of the Board. After discussion, the amendment was voted down.

An alternative amendment was made by Todd, with a second by Derk, to give the Senior Pastor the right of first refusal to be the Chairman of the Board. In other words, the Senior Pastor would be offered the Chairmanship during the annual election of officers, and he could accept it or decline it at his discretion for any reason. After further discussion, the second amendment and the original motion passed unanimously.

The committee then began a discussion on what the Elder nomination and election process should look like, and what level of detail it should be prescribed in the by-laws. Due to time, the issue was tabled until the next meeting.

In preparation for the next meeting, Matt requested each member prayerfully consider their perspective and vision for the Elder nomination/election process, as well as the church membership requirements we should define to establish the right to vote in congregational elections.

Upon motion by Galen, and second by Norm, the meeting was adjourned.

Todd Broyles
Secretary