

MEETING MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE OF LIFE CHURCH THAT WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M.

All members were present except Jerry.

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

Matt introduced us to Pastor Tom. Our new Interim Pastor comes to us with substantial experience in by-laws construction, particularly with a previous church plant. Pastor Tom relayed that he was extremely humbled to be invited to stand with us through this time of transition, and that he felt very honored to be able to participate in our meetings to offer his perspective in any way that might be beneficial to our deliberations. The committee was very happy to have Pastor Tom on board during these critical discussions.

Upon motion by Derk, and second by Galen, the minutes from the Nov 6, 2019 meeting were approved by the committee without amendment.

The committee took up the question on how many elders the church should have. After some discussion it was agreed to table this issue until the committee has resolved whether there will be a single board or two boards (one for spiritual matters and one for corporate matters), as that outcome may change some perspectives on how many elders we should have.

The committee took up the question on whether elders should have term limits, and if so, what those limits should be, how many consecutive terms should an elder be able to serve, and how long should a previous elder have to sit in hiatus before being eligible to serve again. Each member was given time to express their views and rationale. Suggested terms ranged from three to six years and consecutive terms allowed ranged from two terms to no limit on terms.

Upon motion by Seth, and second by Norm, a term duration of four years for an elder was approved by the committee.

Upon motion by Seth, and second by Derk, the committee approved a system of rotation whereby an elder could serve a maximum of two consecutive terms, and would be required to sit off the board, in hiatus, for a minimum of one year before that individual could be reelected to the board for up to another two terms.

During the discussion on term limits, the committee had several related discussions on the process that should be instituted to nominate, elect and re-elect elders, as well as the participants in that process. Most viewpoints indicated that there should be a role to play for both the congregation and the elder board, but the issue was tabled for later discussion. The committee also discussed staggering the terms of the initial cadre of elders such that not all future elections come up at the same time.

The committee then took up the issue of what the qualifications of elders should be. Options included retaining the qualifications as stated in the current by-laws and using scripture to specify those requirements. Verses proposed as possible references included Titus 1:6-9, 1 Tim

3:1-7, Matt 20:26-28, 1 Peter 5:1-11, and Acts 6:1-4. If we were to reference specific verses in the by-laws, the committee discussed whether or not additional stipulations should be put in place such as a minimum age, or a minimum length of time that a person has been a part of our fellowship. In the same conversation, the committee also began discussing what the Bible has to say about women serving as elders in the church. The point was made that there are well thought out scripturally-backed arguments from mature, Biblically-grounded Christian leaders that land on both sides of this issue. Given the time, this issue was tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

Upon motion by Galen, and second by Todd, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Todd Broyles
Secretary