
2024 Bylaws Revision (Proposal)

November 10, 2024

Dear church members,

The Elders and Staff have been working diligently to give a much-needed refresh to the church bylaws. These documents are required for a church to operate in the state of Michigan. They are also useful to describe our governance structure and be the foundation by which we operate as an organization. Since the inception of our church in 1973, there have been revisions every 17 years and this happens to be 17 years from the last revision.

This revision has been thoroughly discussed, vetted, edited, and updated by the elders, staff, trustees, and proofreaders. We feel it is ready for the approval of the congregation, and **ask for your vote of approval on Sunday, November 10, 2024**. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the elders directly to schedule a time to discuss the revision. The elders are also available for drop-in discussions on November 3 at 9:00am, 10:30am, and 12:30pm in room 104.

Nothing has changed with our theology or calling as a Christian Church. The elders desire to continue our biblical structure of leadership where authority rests on the Elders, responsibilities are assigned to staff/deacons/ministry leaders, and leaders are held accountable by the congregation.

We have consulted other church bylaws and borrowed a lot of phrasing and legal wording from E2 Effective Elders. This is a reputable organization associated with the Christian Church brotherhood, and they produce industry-standard materials and training resources.

Here is a summary of the changes and purpose for revisions:

- Updated wording and phrasing to reflect the current structure of leadership and terminology. Removed outdated descriptions like clerk, pulpit, brethren, etc.
- Updated wording to reflect modern methods of communication. This gives flexibility to communicate digitally and in modern methods (current and future).
- Cleaned up areas that were vague, unclear, and open to interpretation.
- Gives flexibility for elders to recruit and replace leadership positions by streamlining processes and formalities.
- Continues to allow opportunities for the congregation to have buy-in, approval, and input on major leadership positions and decisions of the church.

We thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

The Elders (Mark VanRheenen, John Knott, Larry Dodge)