

Summary from Cindy Larson regarding the proposed Section 6.02 Bylaw Amendment:

Exodus 19:4-6 anticipated a day when the people of God would display his greatness to the world with a corporate responsibility of priests and the authority of kings. Today, if you are in Christ, then Christ has commissioned you to be a part of this long anticipated “royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9) That is why our church constitution grants you the congregation, specifically members of Village Church, the final responsibility and authority “in all matters of governance” Article 5 (Section 2.a). You have been granted by Christ’s authority like kings to defend and protect the holiness of our church just as Old Testament priests once defended and protected the holiness of the temple!

One of the beautiful ways our congregation exercises this priestly responsibility and kingly authority is in the election of our church officers Article 5 (Section 2.c).

This motion to amend Article 6 Committees: Section 6.02 of our Village Church bylaws is proposed to honor our church constitution by enhancing the congregation’s role in the nominating process. The proposed amendment does this by removing potential for conflicts of interest, and by increasing congregational involvement in the process. This is proposed to better equip the people of the Village Church congregation to fulfill their responsibilities as priests and kings before Christ.

Bylaw Amendment 1

Recommendation made by Cindy Larson

Article 6. Committees

Section 6.02 Nominating Committee and Duties

Present Wording:

A Nominating Committee consists of the Elders and at least three additional Members who shall be elected by this Church and serve for a term of two years. They are responsible to nominate annually at least one person for every vacant office of this Church and to publish these nominations to the Church at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

Cindy Larson’s recommendation is to amend first sentences to read:

An elected Nominating Committee consists of the Elders and an equal number of additional congregation Members who shall be elected by this church and serve for a one-year term. A nominating committee Member must not be a spouse of a current elder, spouse of a current staff member, or a staff member other than the Lead Pastor.

Summary from Elders regarding the proposed

Section 4.01.4 Bylaw Amendment:

During the past few years, we had a situation where the Chairman of the church and the Treasurer of the church were a married couple. During this short period, the Chairman passed all signature requirements that needed both the Chairman and Treasurer's signatures on to the Vice Chairman. This situation may not happen often, but we think it wise to amend the bylaws and to ensure broader scope of review when it comes to matters that bind the church in any legal or financial contracts.

Bylaw Amendment 2

Recommendation made by Village Church Elders

Article 4. Pastoral Staff (Non-Vocational)

Section 4.01.4 Elder Organization and Duties

Present Wording of last paragraph:

The Chairman shall preside at the meetings of the Elders, the Nominating Committee, and all business meetings of the Church. The joint signatures of the Chairman and the Treasurer shall be required to bind the Church in any legal or financial contract.

Elders recommend adding a sentence to the last paragraph:

If the Chairman and Treasurer are related, the Vice Chairman will act in replacement of the Chairman for any binding Village Church legal or financial contracts.

Summary from Elders regarding the proposed

Section 6.1 Bylaw Amendment:

The Elders recommend one word be amended in this bylaw. The word AUDIT may mean one thing to a church, but to a CPA it means a very specific type of review of financial records. This AUDIT generally would take several days to complete and involve several verifications of outside sources. The cost of this AUDIT would be over \$10,000. In talking with a CPA firm and the individual who does “not-for-profit financial reviews,” he told Bryan Johnson that an AUDIT is rarely done for churches and would really not cover what is typically done for churches. He said that a “Review of Internal Controls” is much more appropriate for a church and cost, only \$2,000 - \$4,000, depending on the size of the church and their operating budget. Much of what is done in the “Review of Internal Controls” is not even done in an AUDIT. The intent when this bylaw was written was to have a “Review of Internal Controls,” not a full AUDIT. This also saves the church financially.

Bylaw Amendment 3

Recommendation made by Village Church Elders

Article 6. Committees

Section 6.01 Audit Committee and Duties

Present Wording:

An Audit Committee consisting of at least two individuals who do not work with the financial records of the Church shall be appointed by the Elders to audit Church accounts annually and submit a written report of their findings to the Elders, who shall publish the report to the Membership. If a qualified committee cannot be found internally, then a qualified external review shall be performed. The audit shall include a review of procedures for handling receipts, deposits, and expenditures in order to ensure appropriate accounting methods are followed and internal controls are sufficient. **This committee must contract an external audit by a CPA familiar with not-for-profit accounting no more than every five (5) years.**

Elders recommending amending the last sentence to read:

This committee must contract an external Review of Internal Controls by a CPA familiar with not-for-profit accounting no more than every five (5) years.

Summary from Elders regarding the proposed

Section 6.1 Bylaw Amendment:

The present wording of the second paragraph does not clearly state the intent of this bylaw. The major intent is to have an orderly meeting. 1 Corinthians 14:40 states, "Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way." In Section 7.03 Order of Article 7 Business Meetings & Order states, "Biblical order, godly wisdom, and consideration for one another shall govern all business meetings." In this Section 7.04 of Article 7 Business Meetings & Order the first paragraph states, "All business meetings shall follow an agenda. The Elders serve as the committee on Business, preparing and posting the agenda at least two weeks prior to the meeting." Section 7.05 Article 7 Business Meetings & Order states, "The agenda, date, time and location of the meeting will be published to the church in publication and in public meetings of the church at least two weeks prior to the Special Meeting." In addition to an orderly meeting, such meetings should reflect respectful dialogue and consideration for one another as noted in Matthew 7:12, Luke 6:31, Philippians 2:3-4, Ephesians 4:1-3, 1 Peter 5:1-5 and Hebrews 13:17.

The second major intent of this bylaw is to ensure that members of the congregation have the opportunity to be heard. Section 2a Government / Congregational Leadership of the Bylaws states, "Under the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God, the congregation of the church is the final authority in all matters of governance."

Philippians 2:3-5 states, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interest, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus."

Romans 12:4-5, "For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

As Elders, we believe the recommended amendments to the second paragraph will greatly assist in a more orderly process and will make it easier and faster for any member to have their concerns heard.

Bylaw Amendment 4

Recommendation made by Village Church Elders

Article 7. Business Meetings & Order

Section 7.04 Agenda

Present Wording:

All business meetings shall follow an agenda. The Elders serve as the Committee on Business, preparing and posting the agenda at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Members who want to introduce new business at any business meeting can do so in two ways. First, they can submit it to the Elders for consideration prior to the business meeting and before the agenda is posted. The Elders may edit it prior to putting it on the agenda, or even decline to include it on the agenda. Alternatively, a member may propose new business at a business meeting. At the meeting in which the agenda item is introduced, it is proposed to the congregation as a new business for the next meeting, and if seconded, the vote is not on the proposal, but on whether or not it is to be adopted for the agenda of the next business meeting.

The agenda for the Annual Meeting shall include adoption of a budget of the coming fiscal year and the election of Church Officers as well as those other items of agenda approved by the Elders.

Elders recommending amending the 2nd paragraph to read:

A member who wants to introduce new business at any business meeting can do so by meeting with the Elders (preferred) or submitting a written request to the Elders for consideration at least three weeks prior to the business meeting and before the agenda is posted. The Elders will meet with the member to discuss the new business and work with the member on the best way to proceed. The Elders also may disagree with the member and choose not to bring it to the next business meeting and inform the member of their decision. If the member still wishes to bring the new business to the business meeting, they may by notifying the Elders of their desire to have the new business discussed at the next business meeting at least two weeks prior to the meeting and it will be added to the agenda.