

Complete Text of Proposed Constitution/Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation Amendments

The motions are grouped into two categories with a total of 7 motions for clarity and to avoid being overwhelmed with over 25 individual detailed motions if there was one motion for every change. There is a first group of 4 motions and then a group of 3 motions. This breakdown should be easier to keep track of:

1. **The Statement of Faith motions with the goal of adopting the 2019 EFCA Statement of Faith and removing the current Statement of Faith:**
 - a. The 4 motions to amend the Statement of Faith

2. **The Operations motions:** There are 3 topics that will each require changes in several articles in the Constitution and/or Bylaws.
 - a. Remove requirement for Quarterly Congregation Meetings – One motion would make 2 changes in the Constitution.
 - b. Remove decisions on Membership from Congregation vote taken at Congregation Meetings to Elder vote after Congregation input – One Motion would make 3 changes in the Bylaws.
 - c. Housekeeping Language changes – e.g. change Associate Pastor language to Ministry Staff language – One motion would make 22 changes in the Bylaws. This does include two changes in how the Elders do things.

Four steps to the Statement of Faith substitution

1. **Amendment to Constitution** to create “Article XII – Amendments to Articles of Incorporation”
This prescribes the process for the Congregation to amend the Articles of Incorporation

Motion A: Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation may be made at any business session of the church by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of votes cast, if a quorum as defined in *Article VI.6* of the Constitution is present. However, a proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation shall first be presented in writing at a preceding regular or special business meeting for discussion, amended if necessary, and then be voted on without further amendment at the next business meeting.

This would require a 3/4 supermajority to pass.

2. **Amendment to Articles of Incorporation.** This allows the Congregation to repeal or change every article of the Constitution or Bylaws.

Motion B: This corporation may adopt a constitution, bylaws, and similar governing documents and may repeal or amend any such document from time to time. Any such repeal or amendment shall be effective notwithstanding any provision of such governing documents that purports to make any governing document provisions impossible to repeal or amend. This provision shall apply to any existing provision in a constitution.

This would require a 3/4 supermajority to pass.

IF THIS AMENDMENT FAILS, WE WOULD NEVER VOTE ON THE NEXT 2 AMENDMENTS.

3. **Amendment to Constitution** “Article IX – Amendments to Constitution.” This removes Article IX.2, which prohibits its own removal.

Motion C: Remove Article IX.2 from the Constitution

This would require a 3/4 supermajority to pass.

4. **Amendment to Constitution** “Article III – Statement of Faith

Motion D: Replace Article III in the Constitution and Bylaws adopted September 26, 2010 with the EFCA 2019 Statement of Faith.

This would require a 3/4 supermajority to pass.

Three Motions to Change How the Congregation and Elders Operate:

1. Quarterly Meeting Motion:

Motion E: The Congregation approves the following changes in the Constitution in order to eliminate the requirement for Quarterly Congregation Meetings:

This would require 3/4 supermajority to pass.

Constitution Article VI – Business Meetings

~~2. The Quarterly Business Meetings of the church will be on a date set by the Elder Council.~~

~~3. Annual or Quarterly Business Meetings are to be publicly announced at two (2) preceding Sunday morning services.~~

2. Membership Motion:

Motion F: The Congregation approves the following changes in the Bylaws in order to

1) transfer the authority for appointing and removing Congregation Members from votes by the Congregation at Quarterly Meetings to votes by the Elder Council after receiving Congregation input.

2) This also eliminates automatic membership in the Congregation for pastors and their wives. Instead, they would go through the regular membership process like all candidates.

This would require a 2/3 supermajority to pass.

Bylaws Article I – Membership

I. Application for Membership

B. The Elder Council or their designees shall interview the applicant as to his or her Christian experience and agreement with the Statement of Faith, and with *Article IV - Membership* of the Constitution. The applicant will be asked to sign a statement indicating agreement which shall be kept on file at the church. If the applicant is found eligible for membership, ~~the Elder Council will recommend such person to the church at the next business meeting. Names of prospective members shall be made available to the Congregation at least one (1) week prior to the vote. The church shall then vote upon the application and two thirds (2/3) of the votes cast entitles an applicant to full membership.~~ *the Elder Council will make the names of prospective members available to the Congregation and request comments from current members if they feel that a prospective member does not meet the requirements for membership. If there are no comments within two weeks of the announcement, prospective members will be admitted to membership. If there are any adverse comments, the Elders will meet and interview those concerned. The Elders will then determine the appropriate course of action.*

~~D. Pastors and their wives automatically become members with full voting privileges.~~

III. Discipline

A. If any member of the church is found to be living or teaching contrary to the Word of God and the Statement of Faith of this church, they shall be disciplined in love by the Elder Council according to Matthew 18:15-18; I Corinthians 5; II Corinthians 2:5-11; Galatians 6:1-2. On the grounds of the above procedure, ~~a two thirds (2/3) majority of those voting at a business meeting shall be sufficient for dropping said member from the membership roll.~~ *the Elders will then determine the appropriate course of action which may include dropping said member from the membership roll.*

3. Motions to Update Language and Clarify 2 Elder Procedures:

Motion G: The Congregation approves the following changes in the Bylaws in order to update language and to clarify 2 procedures (change in Articles V.2.B and VI.III below which remove procedures by the Elders):

This would require a 2/3 supermajority vote to pass.

Bylaws Article III – Pastors

I. The Calling of Pastors

B. ~~Associate Pastors~~ *Ministry Staff*

The Senior Pastor shall be responsible for the selection of all ~~Associate Pastors~~ *Ministry Staff*, with the approval of the Elder Council.

C. Qualifications

1. Pastoral candidates *and ministry staff candidates* should possess the biblical leadership requirements as described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-3, Hebrews 13:17.

2. All pastoral candidates *and ministry staff candidates* shall be licensed or ordained members of, or willing to become licensed or ordained by, the Evangelical Free Church of America.

D. Faith Evangelical Free Church reserves the right to commission its own Pastors *and Ministry Staff*.

II. Duties of the Senior Pastor

E. The Senior Pastor shall oversee the appointment of ministry leaders and ensure that ministry leaders are reporting to the appropriate pastor *or ministry staff member*.

III. Duties of ~~Associate Pastors~~ Ministry Staff

A. ~~Associate Pastors~~ *Ministry Staff* shall serve under the supervision of the Senior Pastor, or his designee, and shall perform such duties in connection with the work of the church as prescribed by the Senior Pastor, with the approval of the Elder Council.

B. ~~An Associate Pastor~~ *A Ministry Staff member* shall abide by the Word of God in his *or her* life, teaching, and preaching, taking great care in all his *or her* conduct so as to be esteemed ~~a man of~~ *worth of* respect in the Congregation and community.

C. Only two (2) ~~Associate Pastors~~ *Ministry Staff members*, appointed by the Senior Pastor, may serve on the Elder Council.

IV. Termination of Office

B. ~~Associate Pastors~~ *Ministry Staff*

1. The Senior Pastor shall be responsible for the dismissal of all ~~Associate Pastors~~ *Ministry Staff members*, with the approval of the Elder Council.

Article IV – Elder Council, Operational Ministry Teams, and Directional Committees

I. Elder Council

D. The Elder Council shall consist of the five (5) Elders-at-Large, the Church Chairman, Church Secretary, Church Treasurer, and Senior Pastor. Additionally, the Senior Pastor may designate one (1) or two (2) ~~Associate Pastors~~ *Ministry Staff members* to serve on the Elder Council.

F. Responsibilities of the Elder Council include:

8. Approve the appointment and dismissal of all ~~Associate Pastors~~ *Ministry Staff members*.

Article V – Elections and Terms of Service

II. Terms of Office

B. ~~Delete item B: Term expirations for the five (5) Elders-at-Large shall be staggered so that no more than two will need to be elected at the annual meeting, unless there is the additional need to fill the vacancy of an unexpired term.~~

E. The Senior Pastor serves on the Elder Council by virtue of his position. Two other ~~pastors~~ *ministry staff members* may be appointed to the Elder Council by the Senior Pastor for an unlimited time, or until excused by the Senior Pastor.

Article VI – Special Services and Procedures

III. Reports

~~A. Church Officers, and others as may be specified by the Elder Council, shall make and file a written yearly report of their respective office or ministry. The Congregation shall be notified of the availability of these reports, which shall be provided upon request.~~

B. Monthly financial reports will be made available *to members* upon request.

V. Position Descriptions

Ministry leaders and managers are responsible for the position descriptions of their direct reports. All ~~pastoral~~ *ministry* staff position descriptions are the responsibility of the Senior Pastor, with approval of the Elder Council. The Senior Pastor position description is the responsibility of the Elder Council. Position descriptions will be made available for review upon request.