



# Overview of Proposed Amendments

Constitution, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, April 2024

## SUMMARY OF MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

The motions are grouped into two categories with a total of seven motions. This document contains the intention and summary of each amendment. The detailed language is contained in a separate document. This document is provided for clarity as an overview to avoid getting lost in the necessary minutiae of the complete text. As background, any motion to change the **Constitution** requires a  $\frac{3}{4}$  supermajority. Any motion to change the **Bylaws** requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  supermajority.

- 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. Four Motions
- 2. The Operations motions:**
  - a. Three Motions, each of which changes several articles in the Constitution or Bylaws

## FOUR STEPS TO THE STATEMENT OF FAITH SUBSTITUTION IN THE CONSTITUTION

Four steps are required to change the Statement of Faith. This includes three motions to change the Constitution and one motion to change the Articles of Incorporation filed with the state in order to make this legal. The first motion is to provide a 2024 pathway to change the Constitution to amend the Articles. The second of these four motions is the change in the Articles. The Articles were last amended in a meaningful way in 1959 when Faith Bible Church changed its name to Faith Evangelical Free Church and joined the Evangelical Free Church of America.

Each of these four amendments requires a  **$\frac{3}{4}$  SUPERMAJORITY TO PASS**. If any one of these fails, then the process stops and the original statement of Faith remains.

- 1. Motion A - 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 filed with the state.
- 2. Motion B - Amendment to Articles of Incorporation.** This inserts an additional article in the Articles to allow the Congregation to repeal or change every article of the Constitution or Bylaws.
- 3. Motion C - Amendment to Constitution** "Article IX – Amendments to Constitution." This removes Article IX.2, which prohibits its own removal and also prohibits changing the Statement of Faith.
- 4. Motion D - Amendment to Constitution** "Article III – Statement of Faith." This replaces the old Article III Statement of Faith in the Constitution with the EFCA 2019 Statement of Faith.

## THREE MOTIONS TO CHANGE HOW THE CONGREGATION AND ELDERS OPERATE

### 1. Quarterly Meeting Motion:

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

**This would require 3/4 supermajority to pass.**

### 2. Membership Motion:

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

- a. 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.
- b. Eliminate 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.**

### 3. Motion to Update Language and Clarify Two Elder Procedures:

**Motion G:** The Congregation approves changes in the Bylaws in order to update language and to clarify two procedures affecting the elders:

- a. The term “Ministry Staff” is substituted for “Associate Pastor” throughout the Bylaws.
- b. Procedures affecting the elders:
  - i. Remove the requirement that the terms of Elders-at-Large be staggered. This has not proved possible since, over the years, individual elders have resigned instead of completing their terms. (Remove Bylaws Article V.II.B)
  - ii. Remove the requirement that Church Officers, and others as specified by the Elder Council, make and file a written yearly report. For years now, the Lead Pastor and Ministry Staff are the ones who communicate this information. The last time the Church Chairman did this is, it was merely redundant. (Remove Bylaws Article VI.III)

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