

Roadmap to Proposed Changes in the Constitution

Articles I, II, III and IV Name, Denominational Affiliation, Purpose, Mission	No Changes Recommended
Article V Governance	CHANGED language to clarify role of Board in proposing goals, establishing policy and monitoring implementation and Rev. John as CEO.
Article VI Membership	CHANGED language to bring Constitution into alignment with how the Membership Roster is actually reviewed and how changes in member status are recorded.
Article VII Membership Meetings	CHANGED Budget Agenda item at the Annual Meeting from “adoption” to “ratification.” ADDED language clarifying certification of eligibility to vote. CLARIFIED quorum % in a Congregational Meeting v. a meeting to Call a Minister (found in Article XIII) DELETED Process/procedure language from current Constitution to be moved to policy.
Article VIII Board of Trustees <i>Purpose & Limitations</i> <i>Now includes language from Current Article IX Officers</i>	NEW language added limiting the power of Board to sale or otherwise encumbers any of the real assets (land/structures/firmly attached-integrated equipment etc.) of the congregation without congregational authorization. ADDED in <u>Section 4</u> . Consistent with Policy Governance, “the Board may establish any committees it needs to carry out its fiduciary responsibilities.” DELETED old <u>Section 4</u> . Executive and <u>Section 5</u> . Standing Committees of the Board many of which are Ministry and not Governance, and others covered in Policy. ADDED language establishing the Audit Committee as a Standing Committee of the Board requiring annual audits. ADDED <u>Section 8</u> . Board responsibility for appointing delegates to denominational meetings (region/district, General Assembly, and organizations or meetings to which the Congregation is entitled to representation. CHANGED the titles of Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk to President, Vice President and Secretary that are more commonly understood.
Article IX Officers and Article X Elected Committees of the Congregation <i>NEW Article IX Elections and Vacancies</i>	REWRITTEN <u>Section 1</u> . Nomination clarifies process for <i>all</i> elected positions rather than listed committee by committee. <u>Section 2</u> . In a single section describes Eligibility for <i>all</i> elected committees. Section 3. Simplifies and clarifies certification and notice requirements, and <u>Section 4</u> . Vacancies Puts this clause into the Article dealing with elected Committees. The REVISIONS in Articles VIII, IX and X have resulted in deleting a lot of redundant descriptions and has made it easier to locate Constitutional authority for key governance functions: Board, Elections Process, and Elected Committees.
Article X Elected Committees of the Congregation <i>NEW Article X Elected Committees of the Congregation</i>	REVISIONS : moved language from old Article X Elected Committees to new Article IX Elections and Vacancies (above). REMOVED <u>Section 3</u> . <u>Auditing Committee</u> that is now a Standing Committee of the Board in Article VIII. NEW language describing an override provision in cases where the Board and the EC do not agree on distributions. Our current Constitution is unclear as to whether there any appeal of an EC rejection of a BOT request for disbursement from the endowment fund. The new language establishes a clear override procedure while at the same time requiring the Congregation to seriously consider, over time, the consequences of such a decision. Proposes establishment of a higher threshold (2/3) for membership vote to support the disbursement. MOVED Paragraphs with language describing what each of the elected bodies does to policy documents.
Article XI Ministers <i>NEW Article XI Indemnification</i>	NEW No prior version of our Constitution has contained an indemnification clause covering elected and other volunteers, as well as ministers and other paid staff but has been recommended. Simply directs the Board to ensure this happens.
Article XI Ministers <i>NEW Article XII Ministers</i>	REWRITTEN This Article adds to the title and role of the Senior Minister “Chief Executive Officer” of the congregation consistent with our move to Policy Governance. Language from our current Constitution that is covered in the contracts of called ministers or in BOT policy has been deleted from this new Article XII. CHANGED the percent voting in favor to call a minister from 80% to 90%, which is usual and customary; raised the quorum to 40% (versus 15%) for voting to call or to remove a called minister.
Article XII XIII Fiscal Year	No change
Article XIII (XIV) Amendments	NEW language that makes explicit that a vote to ratify Amendments to the Constitution must take place no more than 120 days after the meeting where amendments were voted.
Article XIV (XV) Dissolution	No Change
Article XV Bylaws <i>Article XVI Governance Policies</i>	CHANGED the word “bylaws” to “Governance Policies.”
Article XVI (XVII) Effective Date	CHANGED to reflect the dates of vote and ratification.

Edited by Lynda
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