



McLean Bible Church

# SUNDAY, MAY 7

## DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

As we shared in our gatherings today, for the good of our church family and the glory of Jesus' name through our life together, we are asking all of our members to **prioritize voting** on amendments to our church's constitution as part of a **special Congregational Meeting on May 24**.

In light of Acts 20, 1 Timothy 3, Hebrews 13, and 1 Peter 5, we take both seriously and joyfully our responsibility before God to care well for His church according to His Word. As we walked through twelve traits of a biblical church last Fall, our elders began exploring ways to better align our constitution with what we have seen and studied in Scripture. Specifically, we want our church's governing document to reflect an explicit commitment to biblical preaching and teaching, biblical prayer, biblical evangelism, biblical discipleship, biblical membership, biblical leadership, biblical fellowship, biblical accountability and discipline, biblical worship, biblical ordinances, biblical giving, and biblical missions.

As best as we can tell, the vast majority of our current constitution was written in 1961, at or around the same time the church was founded. The world at that time was obviously a very different place, and MBC was a much different size. While we praise God for the commitment to biblical faithfulness that has marked our church since the beginning, in the process of reviewing our constitution, including collaboration with legal counsel, we found that some of the language in our constitution is dated, vague, and confusing.

Unfortunately, over recent years a small group of church members and non-members has leveraged such language in our constitution to file successive lawsuits, complaints, and appeals against our church family. We will keep providing updates on these lawsuits in the days ahead, but clearly it is neither biblically faithful or practically helpful for such lawsuits from this small group of people to continue, especially when this small group refuses to pursue biblical reconciliation with the church.

Based on all of the above, we believe now is the time to amend our constitution. We believe that the proposed amendments will better align with and support our growth in overall biblical health while also providing clarity to help us prevent further harm to our church family. Ultimately, we believe that taking this step together will provide better care for you and the many people we want to reach with the gospel.

We distributed copies of the proposed amended constitution at all of our locations today. For members who were not able to get a copy, you are welcome to pick one up from any of our locations. Between now and May 24, please do not hesitate to reach out to us to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. In addition, our elders are hosting a central Forum at our Tysons location on Thursday, May 11, at 7 p.m. If you would like to be a part of this Forum, please register by contacting leadership at your location.

Then, as previously mentioned, we are asking you to **prioritize voting** as part of a **special Congregational Meeting on May 24**. The Congregational Meeting will begin online at 7 p.m. on May 24, and anonymous voting as part of this meeting will be available electronically and/or in person for active members May 24-28. We need your participation in order for us to move forward as a church family with what is most important to all of us: enjoying and exalting Jesus to the full.

This picture of what is most important to all of us has been on full display over recent weeks as we have celebrated many people being baptized across all our locations. Just today, our Tysons location celebrated the baptisms of 19 people, and it was awesome hearing such powerful testimonies to God's transforming love. In light of all the great things God has been and is now doing among us, our prayer is that coming together to amend our church's constitution at this time will position us to see and experience God doing even greater things among and through us in the days ahead for His glory from our city to the ends of the earth!

**LOVE IN CHRIST,  
MBC ELDERS, LEAD AND LOCATION PASTORS, AND CENTRAL MINISTRY DIRECTORS**



