

MBC CONSTITUTION | PROVISIONS REGARDING ELDERS

Article IV - Application of Biblical Beliefs within the Church Family

Section 2. Biblical Role of the Board of Elders

The Church is ruled by Jesus and led by a Board of Elders which is accountable to Jesus and the Church membership in accordance with biblical teaching and this Constitution. The Board of Elders is responsible for leading under the authority of Christ, shepherding with the care of Christ, teaching the Word of Christ, and modeling the character and mission of Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 5:17; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:1-4). In addition, the Board of Elders shall be the Church's sole authoritative interpreter of the Scripture and the final authority on its application to practices, policies, and discipline within the Church. Accordingly, the Board of Elders may interpret or clarify provisions set forth in the Statement of Faith and Doctrine, and may adopt additional biblical beliefs, as well as practices, policies and standards through which the Church exercises and expresses its beliefs.

Article VI - Leadership

Section 1. Board of Elders

- a. **Authority.** In connection with the biblical role and authority of the Board of Elders set forth in this Constitution, and except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, all legal powers shall be exercised by or under the authority of, and the business and affairs of the Church shall be managed under the direction of, the Board of Elders.
- b. **Composition.** The Board of Elders shall consist of the elders currently in office, including the Lead Pastor(s). The number of elders in office, not including any Lead Pastor, shall be not less than six. If for any reason the number of elders in office, not including any Lead Pastor, falls below six, the Board of Elders shall retain its authority under this Constitution. A majority of the elders in office (including any Lead Pastor(s)) immediately following any Church Family Meeting must not be employees of the Church. In the event this condition is not satisfied, each successive elder in office who is an employee of the Church (other than any Lead Pastor(s)) and who has served in office the longest shall be deemed to have resigned as an elder until the condition is satisfied.
- c. **Terms.** The term in office of an elder (other than any Lead Pastor) shall generally be three years, commencing immediately following the Church Family meeting in which such elder is elected and concluding at the end of the first Church Family Meeting held three years after the date of such elder's election. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the number of elders in office (not including any Lead Pastor(s)) at the end of a Church Family meeting is less than six, the Board of Elders may extend the term of any elder whose term expired at the end of such meeting until the end of the next Church Family meeting. Upon conclusion of a term, an elder shall be eligible to be elected to another term.
- d. **Election.** Each elder must be a male member of this Church and possess the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4 and Acts 20:28. Elders may only be elected by vote of the Church members at a Church Family Meeting from candidates nominated by the Board of Elders, all in accordance with this section. Any Church member may at any time submit the name of a candidate for election as an elder to the Chair or Secretary of the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the elders in office, may nominate one or more such candidates for a vote by the Church membership and may call a Church Family Meeting for the purpose of voting upon such nominated candidate (or candidates). Such meeting may include other agenda items. If the number of elders in office (not including any Lead Pastor(s)) falls below six, the Board of Elders must call a Church Family Meeting for the purpose of electing elders at least every sixty days until the number of such elders is at least six.
- e. **Meetings.** The Board of Elders may provide by resolution the time and place for the holding of regular meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Elders may be called by the Chair of the Board or at the request of one half of the elders in office. Notice of each meeting of the Board of Elders stating the place, date, and time of the meeting shall be given to each member of the Board of Elders. Elders may participate in a regular or special meeting by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communication by which all elders participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting, as determined by the Board of Elders for the meeting, and all such elders so participating shall be deemed to be present for purposes of establishing a quorum and voting at the meeting. A majority of elders in office (including any Lead Pastors) present at a meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at such meeting. Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution, a two-thirds vote of the elders present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Elders. In all decision-making, elders shall prayerfully aim and work toward Spirit-led consensus (Acts 15:22, 38).
- f. **Removal.** An elder may be removed from office by resignation or by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the elders in office. The elder in question shall cast no vote in such deliberations. An elder may also be removed from office by the delivery

to any elder in office of a written statement demanding such removal that is verifiably signed by Church members entitled to vote constituting at least fifty percent (50%) of the total number of Church members entitled to vote. Such removal shall be effective immediately upon such delivery. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an elder in office may not be removed by such written statement if such removal results in the number of elders in office being less than three.