

Proposed Changes to the JIBC Constitution Article 7

Voting on these changes will take place on Sunday, September 26 at a Special Business Meeting following the Morning Worship Service. There will be one vote to either accept or reject these changes in total.

Summary of the Changes:

- Ministry Directors will serve one-year terms and must stand for re-election each year.
- Each Ministry Director position will report to either the body of elders or deacons.
- Normally a member can hold only one Ministry Director or Committee Chair position at a time.
- A member may not serve as a ministry director if a spouse is already part of the Ministry Council.
- Except for reimbursable expenses, a Ministry Director or committee member may not receive funds from a budget that they manage.
- Ministry Directors will be elected in advance of the budget cycle so they can participate in the planning for the upcoming year.
- Appointed church committees should elect their own officers (chairman and secretary).
- A nominating committee will be appointed each year to manage the nomination and election process.

Complete Text of Proposed Changes to Article 7

Article VII: Church Positions

We believe the Word of God (Bible) specifies two ordained offices in the local Church: Elders/Pastors, also known as overseers or bishops (Acts 20:17, 28), and Deacons. We also believe that each of these offices is referred to as being a plurality in a local body of believers. The spiritual leadership and oversight is the responsibility of the Elders, and the physical care and meeting the “temporal” needs of the Body is facilitated by the Deacons.

Therefore, only these two offices shall exist with provisions for election of a Finance Director, Clerk, and other Ministry Directors who may serve only under the authority of the ordained officers. Chief functions of these Church officers and the other Church positions are outlined below.

Section 1: Elders/Pastors

(a) Duty and Function: The Bible teaches that God supplies gifted men to serve as Elders of the local Church (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; Eph. 4:11-13). In scripture, ruling and shepherding the church is usually given to a plurality of Elders (Acts 11:30, 14:23, 15:2, 4, 5, 22, 23, 16:4, 20:17-23; 21:18; Phil. 1:1; James 5:14; 1 Thes. 5:12, 13a; 1 Tim. 4:14, 5:17-19; Heb. 13:7, 17, 24; I Pet. 5:1-2). There may be as many Elders as are Biblically qualified and recognized. The Elders are responsible for the spiritual leadership of the Church, serving under Jesus Christ, the Chief Shepherd (I Peter 5:1-4; Eph. 4:15). They are to equip and prepare the people of the Church to the end that all the membership is actively involved in personal ministry (Eph. 4:11-13). They shall plan the worship, teaching, evangelistic and prayer services of the Church

as led by the Holy Spirit, and shall seek to provide spiritual help and counsel to all in need of such, as the Lord leads and enables.

(b) Individual Roles: Each of the Elders shall serve in specialized roles according to his individual gifts and callings in order to best meet the needs of the congregation. Elders may be paid or serve in a voluntary function in accordance with their responsibilities.

(c) Pastor: At least one of the Elders shall serve as Pastor Elder. His selection shall be by nomination from a pastoral selection committee to the Elders based on the candidate's qualifications. Upon Elder approval of a nominee, his name will then be submitted to the congregation for a vote. Approval by the congregation requires a sixty percent (60%) vote. This Elder shall continue as Pastor Elder until his resignation, death, departure, or removal from office as described in Section 1 (d) of this article.

(d) Election and Recall: As additional Elders are needed, the existing Elders and the members of the congregation will nominate men who apparently meet the Biblical qualifications. These nominees will be personally interviewed by those Elders already serving in the Church. Each of the nominees must meet the Biblical qualifications for Elder (Titus 1:6-9; 1 Tim. 3:1-7), believe that God has truly led and gifted him to fulfill this office, and they must agree with the JIBC Statement of Faith. Names of the nominee(s) will then be submitted to the congregation for feedback, which should be given privately to one or more Elders. Absent special circumstances, the Elders shall make a final approval or disapproval of the nominees three weeks after submitting the names to the congregation. The Elders will obtain congregational affirmation of these men as soon as possible at a special called business meeting. Each man shall continue in his office until his resignation, departure, death, or removal from office by a sixty percent (60%) vote at a duly called meeting for this specific purpose. Such a meeting may be called by the other Elders or upon written petition of thirty-three percent (33%) of the voting members.

Section 2: Deacons

(a) Duty and Function: There may be as many Deacons as the Elders deem necessary to assist in the ministry needs of the Church (Acts 6:3). Each of these men must meet the Biblical qualifications for Deacon (1 Tim. 3:8-13) and they must agree with the JIBC [Statement](#) of Faith. In accordance with the teachings of Scripture, the Deacons shall attend to the physical care and meet the "temporal" needs of the Body and assist the Elders in the various ministries and programs of the Church.

(b) Term of Office: The Deacons shall arrange themselves in classes so that men serve in five-year terms. If re-nominated and affirmed by the congregation, a Deacon may return to service after one year off. In circumstances where it is deemed necessary for a Deacon to continue to serve a term longer than five years, the Elders must approve and the congregation must affirm that action.

(c) Election: Members of the congregation and the officers shall nominate men who meet the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. The Elder board, by unanimous vote, will finalize the list of nominees. A personal interview will be held with the

nominee to confirm his qualifications and desire to serve as Deacon. Names of the nominee(s) will be submitted to the congregation for feedback, which should be given privately to one or more Elders. Absent special circumstances, the Elders shall make a final approval or disapproval of the nominees three weeks after submitting the names to the congregation. The Elders will obtain congregational affirmation of these men as soon as possible at a special called business meeting.

Section 3: Finance Director

Duties and Function: The Finance Director will be a member and shall: (i) be responsible for all the money belonging to the JIBC; (ii) keep an itemized account of all the receipts and expenditures; (iii) serve as the lead person on the Finance Team; and (iv) make periodic reports to the JIBC, including a summary report at the annual meeting. At the election of his successor by the JIBC, the Finance Director shall promptly deliver to such successor, or if none the Clerk, all books, records and accounts of JIBC. The Finance Director will work with and under the supervision of the Deacons and will be elected as a Ministry Director according to the process in Article 7, Section 5.

Section 4: Clerk

Duties and Function: The Clerk will be a member and shall: (i) keep a register of names of members and associate members, along with dates of reception to and termination of membership, and a record of baptisms; (ii) issue letters of transfer; (iii) keep accurate minutes of each business meeting and meetings of the Ministry Council; (iv) notify all persons of their election or appointment to Church positions; and (v) compute the quorum for meetings. Records of the JIBC kept by the Clerk shall be open for inspection by any member or associate member. The Clerk will work with and under the supervision of the Deacons and will be elected following the same process as Ministry Directors in Article 7, Section 5.

Section 5: Ministry Directors

(a) Definition: Ordained officers, non-ordained church members, and associate members may serve in the special capacity of Ministry Director. It is expected that a Ministry Director will develop a team to accomplish stated goals and objectives. Ministry Directors will work with and under the supervision of the Elders or Deacons.

(b) The Nominating Committee: Each year a nominating committee of at least three people, including one elder and one deacon will be formed for the purpose of reviewing the work of Ministry Directors, appointing Interim Ministry Directors (who may serve until the next annual or special meeting), and generating nominations for empty or expiring Ministry Director positions. The committee will also make recommendation for new positions and/or the removal of old ones.

(c) Election Process: Each year, at least one month prior to the Annual Meeting (see Article 6, Section 2) the Nominating Committee will publish names of individuals nominated for Ministry Director positions. The committee has the right to generate

nominations and the members have the right to do so as well, but self-nomination is not allowed. Member generated nominations should be communicated to the Nominating Committee. At the next Annual or Special Meeting the candidate must have the approval of a simple majority of the congregation to serve as a Ministry Director.

(d) Term Limits for Ministry Directors: Ministry Directors must be re-nominated and reelected by majority vote of the members each year at the Annual meeting if they are to continue serving.

(e) Further Limitations: Normally, one person shall be prohibited from holding more than one Ministry Director position at the same time. Also a member may not serve as a Ministry Director if his or her spouse is currently part of the Ministry Council. Furthermore a Ministry Director may not be the recipient of funds from any budget that he or she is responsible for unless those funds are for a reimbursable expense.

(f) Removal: A Ministry Director may be removed at any time by a vote of the elders.

Section 6: Special Committees

(a) Duties and Function: Special committees, either temporary or permanent, may be established to meet a particular need or to act in a special area of service. Formation or dissolution of such a committee and its members may be proposed by either members, Elders, or Deacons, but must be approved by the Elders and the congregation must be informed. If possible, at least one Elder or Deacon should be a member of each committee.

(b) Committee Officers: Each committee shall elect a chairman and secretary. The secretary shall keep minutes of the committee meetings that both he and the chairman shall sign and submit to either the elders or deacons of the church for review at least once a year.

(c) Limitations for Committee Chairman: Normally, one person shall be prohibited from serving as a Chairman of more than one committee at a time or from serving as a Committee Chairman while holding a Ministry Director position at the same time.

(d) Limitations for Committee Members: No committee member may be the recipient of funds from any budget that the committee is responsible for unless those funds are for a reimbursable expense.

Section 7: The Ministry Council

The Elders and Deacons of the JIBC, along with any Ministry Directors, Committee Chairpersons, or ministry staff shall form the Church Ministry Council. The council is not the governing body of the JIBC and shall not normally vote to approve or disapprove church policy or practice. The purpose of the Council will be to facilitate ministry activities through communication and coordination. The council will meet at least five times each calendar year and hear reports from the various church ministries. Meetings will normally be announced at least one week in advance.