



Proposed Bylaw Revisions Overview

Amend “Senior Pastor” to “Lead Pastor” throughout First West’s Bylaws

Article I. Membership

Section 1. Membership (p. 1)

- Every staff member and every church member affirm their agreement with the Church’s Bylaws and Statements of Faith and agrees to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with them.
- Ministerial staff determines members who have met the conditions of membership prior to presentation and affirmation by the church body.
- **Bylaws are brought into harmony with current practice.**

Section 6. Discipline (p. 3)

- Discipline is administered by a two-thirds vote of the active deacon fellowship.
- **This change from a two-thirds vote of members in a business meeting helps preserve unity within the body.**

Article II. Church Officers

Section 1. Lead Pastor (p. 4)

- The formation of a Pastor Search Committee shall be as follows: the Committee on Committees and Church Council shall prepare a list of thirty (30) names representative of the church membership.
- **This change removes the Personnel Committee at this stage of the process to reduce the size of the nominating group for the Pastor Search Committee.**
- Personnel is represented by the chairman who shall serve on Church Council and is also an ex-officio member of the Search Committee.
- Additionally, the Personnel Committee becomes more actively involved in the process once a candidate has been identified.

Section 1. Lead Pastor (p. 5)

- The eight persons with the highest number of votes shall form the Pastor Search Committee, along with the chairperson of the Personnel and Finance Committees, as well as the chairman of Deacons.
- **This change removes 2 alternates to make the committee size more manageable.**
- Because the chair of the Committee on Committees guides the nomination process, this position shall not be eligible to serve on the Pastor Search Committee.

Section 2. Ministerial Staff (p. 7)

- The Personnel Committee and chairperson of the Finance Committee (who serves as an ex-officio member of Personnel), working with the Lead Pastor and the Executive Pastor, shall select ministerial staff members.

- All ministerial staff recommendations shall be presented to the deacons before selection is announced to the church membership.
- **Bylaws are brought into harmony with current practice.**

Section 3. Deacons (p. 7)

- If a Deacon has attained the age of 75 (instead of 70) or older and he has served at least two three-year terms (instead of one three-year term), he will be given the opportunity of being placed on the Lifetime Deacon Fellowship.
- **This change provides for a longer period of service before consideration as a lifetime deacon.**

Section 3. Deacons (p. 8)

- **To be eligible, deacon candidates must be supportive of the vision of the Church as demonstrated through worship and LIFE Group attendance and giving.**
- The nomination process will continue for four weeks (instead of three weeks).
- **Bylaws are brought into harmony with current practice.**

Section 3. Deacons (p. 8)

- Upon nomination (instead of a single nomination), each man will be screened by the Deacon Screening Committee.
- **Bylaws are brought into harmony with current practice.**

Section 3. Deacons (p. 9)

- Men who have not been previously ordained shall be ordained as soon as is practical (instead of after the beginning of the new year).
- **This change gives the church more flexibility in scheduling multisite ordination services.**

Section 4. Trustees (p. 9)

- There shall be at least three trustees (instead of only three).
- **Since there are situations when signatures of two trustees are required, having additional trustees provides more options when a trustee is unavailable due to travel, illness, or other reasons.**

Article IV. Committees (p. 11)

- The Committee on Committees shall be composed of the Senior Leadership Team (which includes the Lead Pastor), Chairman of Deacons, and Chairman of the Committee on Committees.
- **Since missions mobilization is accomplished in continually changing ways, the WMU president has been removed from this group.**

Article V. Church Council (p. 12)

- The regular members of the Church Council shall be the Lead Pastor, Executive Pastor, Trustees, Deacon Chairman; and all church committee chairmen (Committee on Committees, Finance, Personnel, and Long Range Planning).

- **This bylaw revision deletes the reference to the Stewardship Committee, which no longer exists.**
- The functions of stewardship education and promotion will be coordinated by the Finance Committee.

Article VII. Meetings (p. 13)

- The meetings of the church shall be as follows: Services of worship each Sunday and Wednesday as the Ministerial Staff deems appropriate.
- **This change provides for Wednesday service schedule adjustments.**

Article X. Church Year (p. 14)

- The church year shall be determined by the Church Council and shall be the day the new committees (with the exception of the Finance Committee) shall become effective.
- **This revision removes the reference to the Stewardship Committee.**

Article XI. Quorum (p. 15)

- A majority vote of the members present shall comprise a quorum (instead of 5% of the resident membership) with the exception of the calling of a lead pastor, which shall require ten (10) percent.
- **This change is proposed due to lower attendance at regularly scheduled First West business meetings.**
- **Lower attendance at church business meetings is a nationwide trend, reflecting high trust in church-elected committees, deacons and ministry staff teams.**