

2026 Proposed Bylaws Changes

The following proposed changes recommended by the Board of Stewards. Changes are shown in **red** type with the rationale for each change provided below each suggested change.

Shall the Proposed Bylaws Changes Be Adopted?

☐Yes ☐No - **Bylaw change #1: VI GOVERNING BODY**

Paragraph Q. Vacancies – In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Stewards, the Board of Stewards shall appoint a member to fill the **remainder of that term.** ~~vacancy until the next election~~ When a vacant term is set to expire within six months before the Annual Congregation meeting, the Board of Stewards may decide not to appoint a member to fill the vacancy.

Rationale for Change:

The Board recommends adoption of this change to rectify conflict with Section G “Term” which requires the term of office for an elected steward to be 3 years and terms served on a staggered basis with one-third of the elected members being elected annually. The adoption of this change will avoid instances when a candidate, based on the vote count, may be relegated to only a 2- year term. In the event there are eight (8) stewards with a split vote on a matter, the Chair will not vote.

☐Yes ☐No - **Bylaw change #2: VII. COMMITTEES**

Paragraph A. A formal committee structure fosters a stronger culture of self-governance, continuity in lay leadership, and **member** investment in the Church. Our committee structure is designed to foster communication and diversity in participation. The following Standing Committees shall be maintained to advise and assist the Board of Stewards:

Rationale for Change:

The Board recommends removing the word “member” to allow greater flexibility for committee membership. Based on the existing language, current Board policy dictates only church members have full participation and voting rights. The Board wishes to pursue changes to policy to allow non-members invested in church life to serve more fully with their time and talent on committees.

☐Yes ☐No - **Bylaw change #3: VII. COMMITTEES**
Paragraph A, Items 1-7

1. Development Committee
2. ~~Bylaws Committee~~
3. ~~2.~~ Buildings and Grounds Committee
4. ~~3.~~ Finance Committee
5. ~~Congregational Enhancement Committee~~
6. ~~Personnel Committee~~
7. ~~Strategic Planning Committee~~

B. The Board of Stewards may designate additional committees or other governing or advisory bodies as are necessary, and the duties of any such entity shall be prescribed by the Board of Stewards. The Board of Stewards may dissolve any such entity at any time.

Rationale for Change:

The Board recommends adoption of the removal of Bylaws, Congregational Enhancement, Personnel, and Strategic Planning committees as standing committees. The Board has studied committee structure for large congregations and determined they fall into three (3) categories, standing, ministry, taskforce/ad hoc. To better align with Board function and ongoing activities, Development, Buildings and Grounds, and Finance should meet and advise the Board regularly as standing committees. The Board recommends continuation of Congregational Enhancement as a ministry committee. With this change, Bylaws, Personnel and Strategic Planning will be the taskforce/ad hoc committees called upon by the Board to complete a task, similar to the Nominations committee.

☐Yes ☐No - **Bylaw change #4:**

E. Reporting – Reports shall be made to the Board of Stewards by the Standing Committees, and any designated committee or advisory body. ~~as requested by the Board of Stewards.~~

Rationale for Change:

The Board recommends adoption of removal of the phrase “as requested by the Board of Stewards” to align with the established practice of receiving committee reports without an overt action by the Board to request the reports.