

To those in covenant membership at First Family Church –

In 2020, before COVID – the elders were preparing some changes to our constitution and by-laws, and we have recently taken that task back up. We feel these changes to the wording of the document will place it more in line with our theological and practical convictions. Per our constitution – modifying this document requires a vote from the membership.

Below you will find the changes we are requesting that we make to the document. Rather than sharing the whole document – only the specific section and article heading with proposed changes will be shared below. Further – to keep this shorter, some wording that is not being changed will be represented by ellipses (.....) to show that there is wording pthere on the original document. If you would like to reference a complete copy of the FFC constitution and by-laws, please request a copy from any elder or visit our church website to look at it online.

Key:

New language added to the document is marked by: yellow highlighter

Old language removed from the document is marked by: red highlighter/strikethrough

Article 3: Purposes

First Family Church exists ~~so as to turn ordinary people into extra-ordinary disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ~~ to glorify God by preaching the whole counsel of His word in pursuit of the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20). We will fulfill this purpose through:

- Celebration: worship - The church exists to glorify and worship God, and this means that, as a congregation, we are committed to Biblical corporate worship, as well as exhorting each other to individual praise and a lifestyle of genuine thankfulness ([Psalm 95:6, 7a](#); [John 4:23](#).)
- Communication: teaching - First Family Church is committed to teaching the whole counsel of God with sound, biblical teaching that by God's grace, will result in a significant life change ([Colossians 1:28](#); [II Peter 3:18](#))
- Commission:

Article 5: Membership

Section Two: Member Qualifications and Admission

To qualify for membership at First Family Church, an individual must meet the following criteria and go through the outlined process:

- Possess a
- Be presented to the congregation on the Lord's Day with a covenant signing ceremony. (New bullet point)

Section Four: Accountability in Membership

Any member of scripture. Church discipline then, should ordinarily be contemplated and practiced after individual private admonition has failed.

Article 6: Leadership and Offices

Section 1: Summary

The Biblical offices in the church are Pastors/Elders and Deacons. Those that hold these offices receive a calling from God to hold the office and have that calling affirmed by the church. In addition, and in compliance with the Laws of the United States of America, our church recognizes the administrative/corporate positions officers which may or may not be held by Elders under this constitution & by-laws, though the Lead Pastor shall not hold the administrative positions corporate offices of President/chairman, secretary, and treasurer of the corporation, First Family Church Inc (Article 2).

Section 2 – Elders

The Elders shall be comprised of men who satisfy the qualifications for the office of Elder set forth in I Timothy 3: 1–7; 5:22 and Titus 1: 6–9. The number of men in this office shall depend on the size and needs of the congregation and the giving of such men by God.

The church shall recognize men gifted and willing to serve in this calling, in accordance with the constitutional provisions on elections (Article 7.2). (this section continues but there are no further changes)

Section 3 – The Lead Pastor

The lead Pastor shall be an Elder. He shall perform the duties of an Elder described in Section 2, above, and shall be recognized by the church as particularly gifted and called to the full-time ministry of preaching and teaching. He shall regularly do all the pastoral duties set forth in Scripture, such as- preach on the Lord's Day, administer the ordinances of baptism and communion, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to that office, or as set forth in the constitution.

Section 5 – Lay Elders

The church may call additional men to serve the church in the office of an Elder as lay-Elders. These men assist together with the lead Pastor and Pastors in the ministry of the church and are Biblically qualified to serve in the office of Elder/Pastor. These men may also be elected to hold the administrative roles mentioned Article 6, Section 2.

Article 7: Official Meetings

Section Two: Selection of Officers

Calling of the Lead Pastor

In the calling Notice of the nomination of a man to be elected to membership and called as lead Pastor (which shall include, if necessary, election to membership of his believing wife if he is married, and believing children) must be given at two Sunday morning services following the nomination, prior to the vote at a members' meeting.

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Section Three: Meetings of the Elders

Elders meet on the third Monday of every month to discuss matters pertaining to the ministry and membership of the church. The meeting may take place on a different Monday if it is agreed upon by the Elders in advance. ~~Members from the church may attend these meetings, but will be required to leave when the Elders discuss matters that pertain to specific members of the church or any information deemed sensitive by the Elders.~~ Members may request to meet with the Elders to discuss matters pertaining to the church, and the Elders will work to accommodate such meetings. Notice of other

The Elders of the church shall meet each January December for the purpose of selecting corporate officers among the Elders and members for the coming year. These officers will include a president, a secretary, and a treasurer. Any Elder officer may hold more than one office, except that the same person may not hold the office of president and secretary. All officers of the Church shall also be Elders members (Article 5). The nomination of a member to an administrative office does not need to be announced to the church, but the acceptance of a nomination will be announced to the church.

Article 8: Financial Policies

The ministries and programs of First Family Church shall be funded by the voluntary gifts and offerings of God's people. The treasurer of the church shall arrange for a written account of receipts and disbursements. The treasurer shall submit an annual report

End of proposed changes by the elders of First Family Church