



**Proposed Constitutional Edits to be presented to the Members of HCC on May 17, 2026
Approved by the Board of Elders March 12, 2026**

Concerning the Doctrinal Statement (Changes are in **BOLD + CAPITALIZED**):

Article Six—Salvation

We believe that only Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection provided the means by which humanity can be saved. **WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS.** To receive salvation, humans must trust in Jesus's finished work on the cross alone to bring forgiveness of sins. We are justified through the blood of Jesus, declared righteous, and brought into a state of peace and favor with God. Scriptural Basis: John 3:16-18; Ephesians 1:3-14; **EPHESIANS 2:1-10**, Romans 3:21-26; Galatians 2:15-21.

Article Seven—Faith

We believe that the means by which humans receive salvation is by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone **BECAUSE OF GOD'S GRACE.** By faith we turn to God with a repentant heart and receive Jesus Christ as our all-sufficient Savior. Scriptural Basis: John 5:24; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:8-11; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11.

Article Eight—God's Plan

We believe that God's purpose in making salvation of humans possible is so that He may have a people of His own, a purchased possession **BY HIS GRACE**, who are being conformed to the image of His Son. God accomplished His purpose by sending Jesus as a sacrifice for sin. **JESUS'S DEATH, RESURRECTION, AND ASCENSION LED TO GOD'S PROVISION OF THE** Holy Spirit to be our Counselor and to remind believers of what Jesus accomplished. However, this purpose does not void free will nor nullify Jesus's command to proclaim the gospel to all people. Scriptural Basis: Ephesians 1:3-10; John 3:6-8, John 1:12-13; Colossians 1:24-28; 1 Peter 1:2, 2:4-10; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Romans 8:28-29; Matthew 28:18-20.

Article Nine—Security

We believe that the security of genuine believers is resident in the person of Jesus Christ. **BY GOD'S GRACE**, believers are "kept by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation." Thus, genuine believers can never lose their salvation. The sure evidence of a believer's salvation is patient continuance and progress in righteousness and true holiness. Scriptural Basis: Romans 8:35-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5; John 10:27-29; Hebrews 3:12-19; 1 John 5:11-15.

Article Sixteen – Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality
Statement on Marriage

We believe that God created and ordained the marriage union and set its parameters within the structure of a monogamous union between one **ORIGINALLY BIOLOGICAL** man and one **ORIGINALLY BIOLOGICAL** woman. (Genesis 2, Matthew 19:3-9, **ROMANS 1:18-2:11**, Ephesians 5:21-33)

Article 4, Section C, 1 a- Change (1/2) to (3/4)

The hiring of the Senior Pastor should be ratified by more than 37.5% of the church's members. This change would require that at least 56.25% of the membership vote to hire a new senior pastor.

Article 4, Section C, 1 c- Change 51% to (3/4)

The counterpart to hiring is the termination of the Senior Pastor. For the same reasons above, we should ensure that the termination of the Senior Pastor requires more than 37.5% of the membership.

Article 4, Section C, 1 d 3- Change 51% to (3/4)

Same as the reasons above.

Article 4, Section D, 1- Change "A panel of approximately 1/3 of the Board of Elders" to "1/3 of the Elected Elders on the Board"

This cleans up the language to reflect the reality that we only vote on elected elders each year.

Article 7, Section D- Change 51 percent to 50 percent plus 1, 2x

This % change more accurately reflects the heart of the percentage. We want 1 more person than half of the members to reach a quorum.

Article 8, Section C- need to edit:

1. Extraordinary or One-Time Undesignated gifts will be allocated to the Reserve account unless otherwise allocated by the Board of Elders.
2. Designated ...

Article 9, 2- change 51% to 50% plus 1, 2x

Same reason as the change in Article 7.

Concerning Deacons (edits in Red)

ARTICLE 6 – DEACONS

DESCRIPTION

We shall have a Committee of Deacons who are to be helpers to the Elders. As we read in Acts 6, the primary role of Deacons is to attend to the many things necessary for the social and relational success of our church, thereby freeing the pastors and elders to focus on their roles as our spiritual overseers. A Deacon is best defined as a servant-leader whose heart and gift set has called them to ~~be the hands and feet of the church~~ **minister to the tangible needs of the church**, one who humbly and dutifully provides service to others out of obedience to Jesus and in love, counting others as more important than themselves. As such, the Deacons are to be subordinate to both the Senior Pastor and the Board of Elders.

QUALIFICATIONS

Deacons shall be spiritually mature men and women of solid Christian character and good reputation as set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 **8-13**. ~~and Titus 1:5-9~~ A Deacon must:

- 1) Possess integrity and give no grounds for accusation or reproach,
- 2) Have a good reputation and be well thought of by those outside the church,
- 3) Exhibit a spirit of cooperation and to be able to work well within the Committee of Deacons, with the Board of Elders, and the Senior Pastor,
- 4) Be temperate, self-controlled, well-behaved, leading an exemplary life,
- 5) Not be addicted to wine (or other addictive substances) or to have a combative nature, but be gentle and considerate; not quarrelsome, self-willed, arrogant, or presumptuous,
- 6) Be loyal and faithful, both physically and emotionally, to his or her spouse, and to act with dignity and deserving of the respect of his **or her** household,
- 7) Not be a lover of money but a generous giver to the church, and
- 8) Have a teachable spirit and be willing, over time, to prove themselves to be a spiritually mature leader with a solid commitment to this church, and
- 9) Be a member of Hesperia Community Church in good standing **for at least one year**.

PREREQUISITES FOR PLACEMENT ON THE DEACON SUBCOMMITTEE

- 1) Meet the qualifications set forth above
- 2) Attend HCC-hosted Deacon training
- 3) Receive and acknowledge Deacon recruitment letter
- 4) Complete Deacon Application

MEMBERS OF THE DEACON COMMITTEE

The Board of Elders will select from among the congregation individuals who meet the above criteria. There is no minimum or maximum number of Deacons who can serve at any given time. Upon regular evaluation, the Board of Elders will recruit the proper number to meet the needs of the current season of the church's life.

~~The individuals filling the following staff positions of ministry in the church may automatically be members of the Deacon Committee: directors of the children's ministry, the men's ministry, the women's ministry, and the facilities overseer.~~

No one can serve as an Elder and a Deacon at the same time. **Deacons will not have a maximum term but will be required to submit to an annual evaluation to the Elders who, by discretion, may conclude a Deacon's assignment on the Committee of Deacons.**

The Committee of Deacons shall choose from among themselves, by majority vote, a Deacon Coordinator to serve for a term of one year.

MEN AND WOMEN BOTH ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS DEACONS

Both men and women who meet the qualifications of a deacon shall be eligible to serve on the Committee of Deacons. A thorough and balanced analysis of Scripture shows devout men and women serving the church in this capacity. Therefore, the church leadership shall make every effort to maintain a mixture of men and women on the Committee of Deacons whenever possible.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Duties and Responsibilities of the Committee of Deacons include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Individually finding needs among the church community and filling them as effectively as possible.
- 2) ~~Overall responsibility for the church's special events in cooperation and collaboration with ministry leaders.~~
2) Organizing volunteers for day-to-day functions of church service **and assistance to established ministries,** including but not limited to ushers, greeters, ~~security,~~ campus hosts, **set up and take down of events,** and **janitorial needs.**
- 3) Organizing volunteers for special needs of the church and/or community, such as painting, cleanup, work parties, and the like.
- 4) Fulfilling the requirements of any position of ministry the deacon holds while on the Committee of Deacons.

RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL OF DEACONS

Any Deacon may resign from the Deacon Committee by giving thirty (30) days' written notice to the elder committee of his or her resignation. A Deacon may be removed for cause if that Deacon is either unable or unwilling to comply with all the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of a Deacon as outlined in this Article. The responsibility and authority for removal of a Deacon shall rest with the Board of Elders.