

# Summary of Proposed Revisions

## to the Bylaws of Living Word Community Church

The Board of Directors has completed a comprehensive review and modernization of the governing documents of Living Word Community Church.

The proposed revisions are intended to:

- ◆ **Preserve** the Church's biblical convictions and governance structure.
- ◆ **Clarify** sections that were ambiguous, outdated, or difficult to apply.
- ◆ **Improve** readability and understanding.
- ◆ **Strengthen** accountability and governance practices.
- ◆ **Modernize** procedures for communication, meetings, and voting.
- ◆ **Reduce** inconsistencies and redundancies within the governing documents.
- ◆ **Provide** a governance structure designed for long-term continuity and stability.

Importantly, these revisions **do not alter Living Word's fundamental governance model**. Living Word remains a board-governed, independent church operating under the authority of Jesus Christ and Scripture. The revisions are intended to clarify and strengthen existing practices rather than change the fundamental character of the church.

### OVERVIEW OF KEY CHANGES

#### Consolidation into a Single Governing Document

The former Constitution and Bylaws have been consolidated into a **single governing document**, the Bylaws. Because both documents have historically been maintained, distributed, and amended together, consolidating them improves readability, organization, and long-term maintenance.

#### Modern and Clearer Language

Many sections of the previous document contained legal, formal, or outdated wording. The revised Bylaws use **clearer language** while preserving the legal and authority of the original provisions to make the document easier to read and understand.

#### Expanded Statement of Belief

The former Statement of Faith consisted of a brief list of doctrinal affirmations. The revised Statement of Belief provides a **more robust** explanation of Living Word's theological convictions while remaining rooted in historic Christian orthodoxy.

#### Membership Philosophy and Expectations

The revised Bylaws place greater emphasis on **the meaning and responsibilities of church membership**. Membership is not merely an affiliation with an organization, but active participation in Living Word's mission and ministry.

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## Membership Qualifications and Application Process

The revised membership section **more clearly identifies** the qualifications, expectations, and process for becoming a Member. The document outlines a transparent and defined process that still allows staff and the Board to consider each applicant's story and circumstances.

## Electronic Communication, Meetings, and Voting

The revised Bylaws **authorize** electronic notices, participation in meetings, and voting to accommodate Members who cannot attend in person.

## Church Discipline and Restoration

The revised document **clarifies the purpose and process** of church discipline while emphasizing restoration and reconciliation wherever possible. The new language reflects responsible ministry practices. The Board may also modify certain procedures when necessary to address safety, legal, or other significant concerns.

## Director Qualifications

Director qualifications have been incorporated directly into the Bylaws rather than residing solely within Board policy documents for greater **transparency** and increased **accountability**.

## Four-Year Director Terms

The revised Bylaws include a transition from three-year director terms to **four-year terms** with provisions designed to preserve fairness and respect currently elected terms. This change provides for greater leadership continuity and preserves institutional knowledge.

## WHAT HAS NOT CHANGED

The proposed revisions do not change the fundamental aspects of Living Word.

- ◆ Jesus Christ remains the Head of the Church.
- ◆ Scripture remains the final authority.
- ◆ Living Word remains an independent, nondenominational church.
- ◆ The Board remains the governing body.
- ◆ Members continue to affirm Directors and the Lead Pastor.
- ◆ Major decisions continue to require Member approval.

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## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

The Board of Directors welcomes questions and comments about these amended and restated bylaws.

Please use the QR code to submit feedback no later than November 5.

