

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE ALTERNATE

(Retains voting participation by membership, selection of local elders as a governance board, and selection of advisory, or apostolic elders who bring benefit to the church but do not share in governance or operations.)

Membership Voting Privileges

Voting Privileges

The voting constituency at membership meetings shall consist of those persons in active membership prior to the membership meeting, who are not currently inactive, terminated, or dismissed from the membership. All votes concerning required matters will be granted by secret ballots of the membership.

(a) Required Matters. A vote by the membership shall be required for the following:

1. *Lead Pastor*: To confirm the selection of a new lead pastor, to re-elect the lead pastor, and to remove the lead pastor as described in Article ___.
2. *Advisory Elders*: To confirm a new advisory elder and to ratify individual advisory elders annually as described in Article ___.
3. *Bylaws*: To alter, amend, or repeal these Bylaws or to adopt new bylaws as described in Article ___.

(b) Additional Matters. The membership may be requested to vote on additional matters, as requested by the lead pastor or by the local elders. Votes shall be decided by a simple majority of the Membership present at a membership meeting, unless otherwise described by the lead pastor or the local elders, expressly stated herein, or required by the Act.

Local Elders

Role of the Local Elders: The local elders shall have the duties and responsibilities generally associated with and exercised by a corporate board and are to serve the church by assuring compliance with the church's management policies and procedures, and by approving the annual budget and other major financial commitments of the church.

The local elders shall consist of the lead pastor, and until changed by amendment of the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, such number of additional local elders as may from time to time be nominated and elected in accordance with these Bylaws, provided that the total number of local elders shall not be less than seven (7) and not more than nine (9).

Local elders must uphold the requirements of membership and exhibit Christ-honoring leadership and wisdom, as found in the New Testament. Local elders shall not be employees of the church, nor shall more than two (2) be related by blood or marriage to any other local elder, which includes the lead pastor and officers. Local elders must be at least twenty-five years of age and active, tithing members of the church for at least twelve months.

A confirmation vote by the membership shall occur at the annual membership meeting or special meeting called for that purpose. All votes shall be by secret ballot. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership in attendance shall be required to confirm the selection of a new local elder. In the event the membership does not confirm such nominee, the process described herein shall be repeated until a nominee is confirmed as the new advisory elder.

The term of office for all local elders other than the lead pastor shall be one (1) year; however, such local elders may serve consecutive terms without limitation.

All local elders must be ratified each year at a meeting of the membership. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership in attendance shall be required to ratify each individual local elder.

Advisory Elders

It is understood that the lead pastor looks to the _____ district/network Assemblies of God executive officers as a primary source of leadership, oversight, and guidance. In addition, the advisory elders may provide further apostolic oversight to the lead pastor and are charged with protecting the church through counsel, prayer, and other beneficial services as requested by the local elders.

The advisory elders covering the church's principal office are ordained pastors at respected congregations or ministries who know and love the church and its lead pastor. The advisory elders shall not receive any compensation in exchange for services rendered as an advisory elder. The local elders may, however, adopt a resolution providing for reimbursement to advisory elders for reasonable expenses incurred as a result of attending a meeting at the request of the local elders.