

Last year, the elders put together a committee to review the bylaws of the Lakeway Church. The bylaws govern the way we work and must be considered and passed by the church members in a meeting of the congregation. The committee was charged with reviewing existing bylaws and suggesting any changes necessary for clarifying, streamlining, and improving our work together.

You will find on the church website a copy of the current bylaws and a copy of the proposed bylaws. There are a great number of largely insignificant changes to pagination, formatting, and the like. I would like to draw your attention to a much smaller number of substantive changes.

Changes related to the Elder Council in Article IV.

Over the last several years, by the grace of God, our church membership has grown dramatically. There are so many active and thriving ministries that a person who is integral to the leadership in one may still be largely unknown to other community members. When voting for Elder Candidates, many members lack sufficient information to distinguish one from another and choose to vote based on superficial attributes or to forgo voting. We want to help enhance the elder selection process with the following changes.

1. **Shift the election process earlier in the year and make the public engagement period longer.** We hope this will allow the church members to get to know candidates, providing a deeper basis for selecting among multiple qualified candidates and driving a greater number of you to vote with confidence. At the same time the body elects (or reelects) new Elders, the ballot will include proposed public members for the Elder Candidate review committee for the following election cycle.
2. **A training period for new Elders.** New elders will spend October-December after their election attending all Elder Council meetings but without voting rights. On January 1 of the following year, the new Elders will begin full participation as voting members. This will improve the quality and confidence of participation through the Elder's term on the Council.
3. **Removing the language used distinguishing 'Active' and 'Inactive' Elders.** This is meant to highlight that all Elders are ordained as Elders for the life of their membership in the Lakeway Church. In large part, this change is recognizing what we already practice.

Changes to the Purpose of the Lakeway Church in Section 1.02. The changes move the language of the five marks of TLC to the phrase "worship plus two." This phrase has driven our ministry programming and our language in many ways over the years. We want each member of TLC to participate in a worship service on Sunday, plus a group to grow with (be discipled) and a place to serve. The proposed changes to Section 1.02 are intended to better align with the new vision.

I hope this letter helps you understand the proposed changes and some of the reasons behind them. I am available for questions or comments before the meeting and am happy to discuss the process or the result further.

Sincerely,

Anthony P. Iannitelli (Tony)