

BY-LAWS REVISION COMMITTEE
PROPOSED CHANGES FOR 2017

Following the 2016 Annual Meeting, the Executive Council formed an *ad hoc* committee to review the By-Laws of First Church and to solicit suggested changes. This process resulted in a number of proposals to reflect organizational changes already in effect in addition to a variety of stylistic and formatting adjustments. The substantive proposed changes are presented here with the recommendation of the Executive Council that they be adopted at the 2017 Annual Meeting. The proposed By-Laws, as amended, have been made available in their entirety through the weekly email newsletter and in the church office.

Proposal:

- Membership: Add language from our ONA statement to reflect our determination to be inclusive
- Church Meetings: (a) Financial Meeting will be held during the first calendar quarter of each year, and (b) Annual Meeting will be held during the second calendar quarter of each year
- Board and Committee Meetings: Boards, Committees and EC will meet “regularly” in cases where the old requirement was to meet monthly
- Board and Committee composition: Eliminate requirement to recruit youth members, although youth continue to be welcome on any board. In addition, establish board and committee staffing as “up to x” in most cases. Note, for Mission and Outreach the number is now “up to 12” rather than a total of 9
- Executive Council membership: add “any Associate Minister” as a voting member
- Borrowing: Clarify that the borrowing limitation applies only to borrowing from third (outside) parties
- By-Laws Revision Committee: Make this an *ad hoc* committee rather than a standing committee
- Board of Elders is now Board of Worship
- Heritage Committee: Replaces the Church Historian and has ex-officio status on Executive Council
- Nominating Committee: add ONA language to the recruiting charge
- Hiring and Removal of Staff: Christian Education, Music, and Trustees may provide input for recruiting relevant staff, but are not to participate in actions resulting in hiring or removal of staff
- Memorial Garden Committee membership will be self-determining, without term or size limits

By-Laws Revision Committee:

Melinda Westbrook
Paul Bryant
Steve Osborn
Shannon Lindsay
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