

THE CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP COVENANT OF LAKE AVENUE CHURCH AMENDMENT

1. MOTION BY ELDER COUNCIL: IT IS RECOMMENDED BY THE ELDER COUNCIL THAT THE CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP COVENANT OF LAKE AVENUE CHURCH BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

BY ADDING THE WORD “**MEMBERS**” TO THE SECTION PROVIDING FOR MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY THE ELDER COUNCIL.

a. The existing language from The Congregational Leadership Covenant of Lake Avenue Church (hereinafter also referred to as “bylaws”), states on page 4:

“Deacons

The elder council appoints deacons to join with the pastoral team in discerning how God is working through the church and to provide leadership, support, and direction for those carrying out our ministries. The elder council also establishes committees consisting of elders, deacons, and appropriate individuals from the pastoral team or staff to advise and support the elder council and to exercise any authority delegated by the elder council. The deacons are selected and appointed for terms as determined by the elder council, in consultation with the leadership development team and the pastoral team, and are announced to the church. All specific ministry decisions and policies made by the deacons are reported to and subject to review and modification by the elder council.”

b. The proposed change of the highlighted sentence above by adding “members” will read:

*“The elder council also establishes committees consisting of elders, deacons, **members** and appropriate individuals from the pastoral team or staff to advise and support the elder council and to exercise any authority delegated by the elder council.”*

2. REASON FOR AMENDMENT:

Currently, only elders, deacons or pastoral team or staff members may serve on Elder Council committees. There are currently two committees of the Elder Council: Personnel, and Finance and Audit. There may be more in the future as the Elder Council fulfills its responsibilities to the congregation, which will require more individuals with specific skills and experience who may not be called to be a Deacon or Elder. The Elder Council consults with the Leadership Development Team and Pastoral Team in selecting and appointing Deacons. To allow the Elder Council to engage members with specific skills and experience to assist it in fulfilling its responsibilities to the congregation, it is recommended that the bylaws be amended to include “members” to the individuals who may serve on a committee of the Elder Council but are not called to be Deacons or Elders.

a. Who is a “member”?

The bylaws state at the bottom of page 2:

*“An individual becomes a member of the church or has prior membership restored by completing a process determined by the elder council, having **confessed Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, been baptized, and accepted this covenant.**” (emphasis supplied)*

The bylaws further state at the top of page 3:

*“Members affirm that they will fulfill these **six responsibilities**: be **faithful in following Jesus**, **habitually attend the worship services** of the church, **participate in the community life** of the church, **serve in the church’s ministries**, **give regularly for the support of the church**, and **abide by this congregational leadership covenant.**”* (emphasis supplied)

3. BYLAW AUTHORITY FOR AMENDMENT

It is respectfully requested that the requested amendment be approved pursuant to the bylaws which state:

“An amendment of this congregational leadership covenant or of the church’s Articles of Incorporation may be proposed for approval by the members in two ways: First, the **elder council may propose any amendment.**”

For changes other than foundational declarations (Covenant, Polity, and Statement of Faith), of which this requested amendment is not, the bylaws further state:

“Any other amendment is effective only if it is **approved by 75% of the members who vote for or against it**, at least 14 days after the proposed amendment has been announced at the weekly worship services and the text of the amendment has been made available in the lobby of the worship center and through other church communication channels as directed by the elder council.”

It is respectfully requested that the congregation approve the bylaw amendment.