

**CURRENT - ARTICLE VIII SECTION II**

**A. Nomination of candidates to the Board of Elders**

- i. Whenever a member of the Board of Elders’ term reaches completion, the members of the Board of Elders, or any member of the congregation, may submit to the Board of Elders the names of members whose life is consistent with the qualifications of an Elder, as defined in Article VII Section I, for nomination. The nominating member shall complete an Elder Nomination form. The Board of Elders shall review the Elder Nomination forms for individuals so nominated by the congregation and present a list of individuals for the vote of the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.
- ii. Should the need arise, the members of The Board of Elders may at any time during the year nominate a candidate or candidates to The Board of Elders and call a Special Business Meeting for their consideration. In no case should a man be nominated without his knowledge and prior consent. Any questions concerning the nominees shall be addressed to the Board of Elders in writing no later than one week prior to the members’ meeting.

B. The members shall vote on the final list of nominations at the business meeting by secret ballot or by absentee ballot. It is hoped that the vote of the congregation will in such matters always be unanimous, but if unanimity is not realized, no less than a three-fourths majority of those members voting in person or by absentee ballot shall be required for the election of an Elder.

C. Following recognition of an Elder by vote of the congregation, he shall be publicly installed in his office at a regular worship service by the prayer of the whole church and the laying on of hands by the existing Elders.

**PROPOSED CHANGE - ARTICLE VIII SECTION II**

**A. Nomination and Evaluation of Candidates for the Board of Elders**

- i. Following the Annual Business Meeting, a month-long period determined by the Board of Elders may be announced wherein members of the congregation may nominate members for consideration as candidates for the Board of Elders.
  - a. Nominees must exhibit the biblical qualifications for elders as outlined in Article VII, Section I, and be submitted using the Elder Nomination Form.
- ii. The Board of Elders shall oversee a prayerful and structured evaluation process, which may include personal assessments, theological questionnaires, interviews, development opportunities, and a season of discernment. The structure and timeline of this process may vary depending on church needs and at the discretion of the Board of Elders. Participation in this process does not guarantee advancement or installation.
- iii. The Board of Elders will determine which candidates advance to the Elder-In-Training phase. The number of candidates selected shall reflect the needs of the church at the discernment of the current Board of Elders.

**B. Elder-In-Training Phase**

Prior to being presented for congregational affirmation, each candidate shall complete a period of intentional training and evaluation, referred to as the Elder-in-Training phase. This phase is designed to develop, assess, and affirm the nominee’s readiness to serve in the role of elder.

**C. Elder Board Vote**

Upon completion of the Elder-in-Training phase, the current Board of Elders will vote on each candidate. Those selected will then be presented to the congregation for affirmation.

**D. Congregational Affirmation**

New elder candidates shall be affirmed by a vote of the members at the Annual Business Meeting (or Special Business Meeting, if applicable). A three-fourths majority of members voting is required for affirmation.

**E. Installation**

Upon affirmation by the congregation, new elders shall be publicly commissioned at a Sunday worship service through prayer and the laying on of hands by the current elders.

**F. Special Nominations**

Should the need arise outside of the normal cycle, the Board of Elders may nominate additional candidates and call a Special Business Meeting for their consideration. Any questions concerning a nominee shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Elders at least one week prior to the scheduled Business meeting.