



The Church Council is proposing the following amendments to our By-laws. The main objectives behind these proposed changes are two-fold:

1. Streamline the existing by-laws
(This is where you will notice the proposed deletion of various Articles. Many of these articles have been moved into Article V: Duties of the Church Council. This helps simplify our by-laws and bring greater clarity to the tasks of the Church Council.)
2. Update the by-laws to greater relevance for our current ministry
(These updates also encompass the proposed deletion of a couple of articles, or bring certain titles/dates/ministry groups into compliance with our current ministry practices.)

Please take some time to review the proposed amendments. Any article with a proposed amendment has the entire current article published, followed by the proposed amendments. If you have any questions or would like more clarification on a proposed change, please feel free to contact a member of the Church Council preceding the Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 23.

Current Article III – Membership

Section 1. The membership of this Corporation shall be restricted to those persons who meet the requirements as set forth in Section 2 of this article, and as qualified members of this Corporation they shall have the right to vote in its business meetings.

Section 2. (a) All electors and Officers must be members of the First Church of God, and in the full confidence and fellowship of the Church.

(b) They must have worshipped regularly with this congregation for a period of at least six months immediately preceding any meeting at which they exercise the rights of membership.

(c) They must have lived during that period of six months in harmony with the Biblical doctrines and practices as accepted and taught by the First Church of God.

(d) Any member may be given a right to vote by a two-thirds majority of the members present at any business meeting, regardless of the foregoing conditions in Section 2(b).

(e) All electors must be eighteen years of age or older.

Section 3. If any member's right to vote in a business meeting of this Corporation is questioned and said member insists that he has the right to vote, then the objector may call for the expression of the Assembly and the chairman shall ask the members present in said business meeting to cast a vote by secret ballot, and two-thirds of the members voting shall determine the questioned member's right to vote, and be binding upon all.

Section 4. If a member's right to vote is not questioned, such silence on the part of all shall be taken as prima facie evidence of said member's right to vote.

Section 5. Any objection to any member's right to vote may be raised at any time before the actual voting is called for by the chair, and any member may call upon the presiding officer before a vote is cast to require each person present to signify whether he considers himself qualified to vote.

Section 6. The rules and regulations governing membership herein stated shall apply to business meetings only and shall not affect in any way the religious rights and privileges of the members.

Section 7. (a) Any member of the First Church of God, Pryor may petition the church council of the First Church of God, Pryor for an absentee ballot for any business meeting of the First Church of God, Pryor.

(b) Member shall be defined as described in Article III of the By-Laws of the First Church of God, Pryor.

(c) The council shall secure a valid reason for absentee ballot before issuing the ballot to the petitioning member or their representative.

(d) No absentee ballot may be issued after the actual balloting of any business meeting, annual or special called.

(e) The church council shall request the petitioning member of envelope to correspond with the number by their signature (or their name countersigned by their representative), and shall maintain the returned ballot sealed until the business meeting. The list of those who have received absentee ballots shall be read during the meeting for which the ballot has been received.

Proposed Change for Article III **Voting Membership**

Section 1. Congregational voting membership privileges shall be extended to a person who:

- a) Has made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b) Has worshipped regularly with First Church of God for not less than the preceding 6 months.
- c) Is 18 years of age or older.
- d) Supports through serving and giving financially.
- e) Considers First Church of God their Church home.

Section 2. If an objection to any person's right to vote at a business meeting is questioned by any member, the chair may call for a vote to determine if that person will be granted the privilege of voting. A two-third vote of the members present and voting, is required to grant such an individual voting rights. This shall apply to business meetings only and shall not affect in any way the religious standing, rights, and privileges of any persons.

Section 3. Any member of the First Church of God, Pryor may petition the church council of the First Church of God, Pryor for an absentee ballot for any business meeting of the First Church of God, Pryor. No absentee ballot may be issued after the actual balloting of any business meeting, annual or special called. The Church Council shall grant the petitioning member an envelope to correspond with the number by their signature (or their name countersigned by their representative), and shall maintain the returned ballot sealed until the business meeting. The list of those who have received absentee ballots shall be read during the meeting for which the ballot has been received.

Section 4. The primary role of the Congregation shall be to serve in ministry opportunities of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The following decisions shall require a vote of the congregation through a business meeting, annual or special called.

- a) Incurring of long-term debt in excess of three years and/or a per year amount in excess of 10% of the annual operating budget.
- b) Calling or dismissing the Lead Pastor.
- c) Dissolving the corporation.
- d) Purchasing or selling Church real estate.
- e) Alteration, amendment or repeal of the bylaws.
- f) Ratification of Church Council nominees.
- g) Acceptance of annual general budget.

The Lead Pastor or Church Council may also bring to the Congregation decisions not listed above for a non-binding vote or a less formal expression of support, as they deem appropriate. Meetings of the Congregation for voting shall occur annually and at special times as needed when called by the Lead Pastor or Church Council. The Congregation shall be given at least 7 days notice of any vote by announcement at regular services.

Current Article V – Duties of the Church Council

Section 1. The Church Council shall have general control of the property and business of the Church. The council may appoint such person, or persons, as are necessary in the conduct of the business of the Church, and such appointees shall receive thereafter such compensation as the Church Council may deem proper. This pertains to all save the Pastor, and the Associate Minister, if there be one, both of whom will be elected by the voting membership.

Section 2. The Church Council shall be in control of all property of the Church.

Section 3. The Church Council shall have general supervision over all the agencies of the Church.

Section 4. The President shall be the chief presiding officer of all meetings of the Church Council, and chairman of all special and annual business meetings of the Church, and with the advice and the consent of the Church Council shall be the managing officer of the Corporation and he shall have the authority to execute any and all notes, mortgages, or other papers to be usually vested in the office of the President of any corporation, or organization.

Section 5. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence or in the event of his inability to serve as chairman. He also shall be in charge of maintenance of all the Church property. He shall bring his recommendations back to the Council for action.

Section 6. Secretary-Treasurer. He shall attend all the business sessions of the Church, whether regular or special, excusable only for sufficient cause, and shall keep a full, true, and orderly record of the proceedings of the business sessions in a book provided for that purpose. This book shall be carefully preserved by the secretary and shall remain the property of the Corporation. This book shall be open for inspection by members of the Church at all times.

Section 7. In case of the absence of the Secretary, the presiding chairman shall appoint a secretary pro-temp.

Section 8. The Secretary, also acting as Treasurer, shall receive all funds of the Church and Sunday School, unless otherwise authorized, and make payment of all bills for the same, in accordance with the adopted budget for the year and the wishes of the Church. He shall deposit said funds in whatsoever Bank or Banks as may be recommended by the Church Council. He shall be authorized to receipt all money paid to the Treasurer and all moneys paid out for the Church. He shall turn over to any agency of the Church such moneys under the direction of the Church and the Council as requested by them. He shall furnish a detailed statement of receipts and disbursements for any business meeting. He shall sign all checks drawn on the account of the Church, which is also the Corporation.

He shall, upon request, turn over his financial records to be audited: The auditor to be chosen by the Church Council.

Section 9. Vacancies occurring in the Church Council or any other official board shall be appointed by the remaining members of said Council until the next annual election.

Section 10. The Church Council terms of office shall begin immediately after the annual election and continue until his term of office is completed or terminated.

Section 11. The Church Council shall appoint one (1) lay delegate for every fifty (50) members or majority thereof according to the listing in the current Yearbook of the Church of God, published annually by the Department of Church Service of the Church of God, Anderson, Indiana, to represent the local congregation in the General Assembly of the Church of God in the State of Oklahoma. (Amended 3/26/1995)

Proposed Change for Article V – Duties of the Church Council

Section 1. The Church Council shall have general control of the property and business of the Church and shall have general supervision over all the agencies of the Church. The council may appoint such person, or persons, as are necessary in the conduct of the business of the Church, and such appointees shall receive thereafter such compensation as the Church Council may deem proper. This pertains to all save the Lead Pastor, ~~and the Associate Minister, if there be one, both~~ of whom will be elected by the voting membership.

Section 2. The President shall be the chief presiding officer of all meetings of the Church Council, and chairperson of all special and annual business meetings of the Church, and with the advice and the consent of the Church Council shall be the managing officer of the Corporation and he/she shall have the authority to execute any and all notes, mortgages, or other papers to be usually vested in the office of the President of any corporation, or organization.

Section 3. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence or in the event of his/her inability to serve as chairperson.

Section 4. The Secretary shall attend all the business sessions of the Church, whether regular or special, excusable only for sufficient cause, and shall keep an orderly record of the proceedings of the business sessions. This record shall be open for inspection by members of the Church at all times.

Section 5. In case of the absence of the Secretary, the presiding chairperson shall appoint a secretary pro-temp.

Section 6. The Treasurer, shall exercise oversight of all funds of the Church, unless otherwise authorized, and make payment of all bills for the same, in accordance with the adopted budget for the year and the wishes of the Church. He/she shall deposit said funds in whatsoever Bank or Banks as may be recommended by the Church Council. He/she shall be authorized to receipt all money paid to the Treasurer and all moneys paid out for the Church. He/she shall turn over to any agency of the Church such moneys under the direction of the Church and the Council as requested by them. He/she shall furnish a detailed statement of receipts and disbursements for any business meeting. He/she shall sign all checks drawn on the account of the Church, which is also the Corporation. He/she shall, upon request, turn over his/her financial records to be audited: The auditor to be chosen by the Church Council.

Section 7. Vacancies occurring in the Church Council or any other official board shall be appointed by the remaining members of said Council until the next annual election.

Section 8. The Church Council terms of office shall begin January 1, preceding the annual election, and continue until his/her term of office is completed or terminated.

Section 9. The Church Council shall appoint one (1) lay delegate for every fifty (50) members or majority thereof according to the listing in the current Yearbook of the Church of God, published annually by the Department of Church Service of the Church of God, Anderson, Indiana, to represent the local congregation in the General Assembly of the Church of God in the State of Oklahoma. (Amended 3/26/1995)

Section 10. The Church Council and Lead Pastor shall act as the Nominating Committee for the corporation. The Congregation shall have opportunity to submit names of potential leaders by a date designated by the Church Council. The Church Council will then be tasked with the responsibility of selecting and setting forth names to the voting membership by the annual business meeting to fill any upcoming vacancies on the Church Council. The Church Council shall consider the qualifications of any nominee as set forth in Article III, Section 1. They shall also take into consideration spiritual gifts, areas of skill and expertise, generational diversity, and other qualities necessary to round out the abilities of the Church Council leadership. These names will be placed before the voting membership at the annual business meeting for ratification. Determination of two and three year terms shall be decided by the Church Council at the time of electing new officers. Terms will be based on office held and other factors recognized by the governing board.

Section 11. The Church Council shall act on behalf of the Assembly as the Pulpit Committee. It shall be the duty of the Church Council, acting in this capacity, to secure ministers to occupy the pulpit until a regular pastor can be secured. The Pulpit Committee shall be tasked with creating an interview process that seeks to

determine the gifting and ability, spiritual maturity, and good standing in the Church of God, Anderson, IN of any prospective Lead Pastor. The Pulpit Committee shall set forth to the prospective minister the salary and benefits to be paid, and ensure there is a clear understanding of what he expects of the Church as well as what the Church expects of him. Upon approval of the voting membership, the Pulpit Committee shall appoint the Lead Pastor. The Church Council shall also act as advisory and final hiring authority for any paid staff (pastoral or support) for First Church of God, Pryor.

Section 12. The Church Council shall act as the Budget Committee for the Corporation but may appoint anyone they desire to help draw up the budget. The Lead Pastor will be an ex-officio member of this committee. The Budget prepared by this committee shall be explained to the Church Assembly in detail by the President or other designated member of the Council. It will be made available for review at least 7 days prior to the annual meeting.

Current Article VII – Budget Committee

Section 1. The Church Council shall act as the Budget Committee for the Corporation.

Section 2. The Church Council may appoint anyone they desire to help draw up the budget.

Section 3. The pastor and associate minister will be ex-officio members of this committee.

Section 4. The Budget prepared by this committee shall be explained to the Church Assembly in detail by either the President or the Secretary-Treasurer, or any member of the Council. It shall be posted on the Church Bulletin Board at least one week preceding the annual meeting.

Proposed - Eliminate Article VII – Budget Committee

Rationale: The budget is a function of the Church Council. The content of Article VII has been slightly revised and placed as Section 12 in Article V.

Current Article VIII – Board of Christian Education

Section 1. The Board of Christian Education shall be composed of the following members: Chairman of the Board (Chairman), At-Large Member, Secretary, the Senior Pastor, and an Associate Pastor and Ad hoc member(s).

Section 2. The Chairman of the Board and the At-Large Member of the Board of Christian Education are elected at the Annual Business meeting. The Chairman of the Board shall be the elected member that receives the most votes at the Annual Business meeting. The Senior Pastor and an Associate Pastor will act on this Board in full capacity that is not just ex officio. Ad hoc member(s) may be added as necessary to support the Board of Christian Education and its activities.

Section 3. The term of office for elected members of the Board of Christian Education, Secretary, and teachers shall be one year in length. However, each may succeed themselves indefinitely. The term of office shall begin March 1 and continue through the last day of February for all appointed members.

Section 4. The Board of Christian Education shall hold a general meeting every quarter. Other meetings that are necessary may be called by the Chairman and on consent of the members.

Section 5. In case of the absence of the Secretary, the Chairman shall appoint a Secretary Pro-Temp.

Section 6. The Chairman shall recommend to this board all teachers for the coming year for their approval.

Section 7. The Board of Christian Education shall be responsible for the supervision and appointment of the Directors and Teachers of the Daily Vacation Bible School.

Section 8. The Board of Christian Education shall be responsible for recommending class room curriculum to the Senior Pastor for approval.

Section 9. The Board of Christian Education shall promote students in the Sunday school yearly. The date of this Promotion Day shall be determined by the Board of Christian Education.

Section 10. In all its activities the Board of Christian Education shall be subject to and function under the direction of the Church Council and shall report to the General Assembly on its activities at the annual business meeting.

Proposed – Eliminate Article VIII pertaining to Board of Christian Education

Rationale: The tasks set before the Board of Christian Ed. per the bylaws are irrelevant to the current staffing situation. Matters of Vacation Bible School and other children's programming is taken care of by staff and appointed lay teams. Adult

education along with curriculum approval is also administered through staff approval. Policies and procedures for ministry teams that oversee these functions of the Church may be created and placed in the Policies and Procedures Manual, but are not necessary as a binding article in the Bylaws of the Corporation.

Current Article IX – Nominating Committee

Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of seven members, who must not be related (Relatives defined as husband, or wife, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, father, mother, father-in-law, or mother-in-law). These members are to be elected from the different agencies of the Church in November of each year, in order as listed below, and should there be relatives chosen in different groups, then the first one chosen in order shall have priority over the others:

1. Council Two members, chosen from the Church Council
2. Bd. of Christian Education One member, not to be a Church Council Member.
3. Missionary Society One member, not to be a Church Council Member.
4. Men's Brotherhood One member, not to be a Church Council Member.
5. Adult Choir One member, not to be a Church Council Member.
6. Church Usher One member, not to be a Church Council Member.
7. Youth Council One member, not to be a Church Council Member.

The Pastor and Associate Minister shall be ex-officio members of the Board.

Section 2. This Committee shall elect from its own membership a Chairman and a Secretary. The Chairman shall acquaint the Committee as to the qualifications as set forth in Section 4 of this article.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of this committee to place in nomination names for the offices to be filled by election in the General Assembly, or special Assembly meetings of the Church. It shall present on the ballot not less than six (6) nominees for Church Council, not less than four (4) for Board of Christian Education, and twenty Ushers.

Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall use the following qualifications in choosing nominees for any office to be voted upon by the General Assembly:

- a. They must qualify as to Article III on Membership.
- b. They must be a regular attendant of the Church Services.
- c. They must support the Church with their Income.
- d. They must have enough interest in the office to help operate the business affairs of the church as efficiently as they would their own private business.
- e. Members of the Council should be qualified to be a Secretary –Treasurer, or a President or a Chairman of the Council.

Section 5. This Committee shall meet in sufficient time to prepare the ballot for the annual or special business meeting of the Assembly or Corporation. The ballot prepared by this committee shall be posted on the Church Bulletin Board at least one (1) week before the election date.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the two members representing the church Council of this committee, to instruct and help enforce this Article IX to its full extent.

Proposed – Eliminate Article IX – Nominating Committee

Rationale: The Nominating Committee would become a function of the Church Council. This is necessary to ensure spiritual healthy and appropriate leaders as a church grows. The entire voting membership will not be able to know every potential leader, their qualification, or if they will be able to meet the current needs of the Church Council. The Congregation will be able to submit any name they believe would serve well to the Church Council by a particular date. This will allow the congregation to weigh in and “bring to the table” potential leaders. The Church Council will then ultimately deem, based on a variety of factors, who they believe would be the most qualified leaders for that particular year, and bring them to the voting membership for ratification. The revised contents of Article IX and issues pertaining to the Nominating Committee are now located in Article V, Section 10

Current Article X – Pulpit Committee

Section 1. The Church Council shall act in behalf of the Assembly as the Pulpit Committee.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Church Council, acting in this capacity, to secure ministers to occupy the pulpit until a regular pastor can be secured. It shall further be the duty of this committee to make recommendations to the General Assembly of the ministers for a regular pastor.

Section 3. It shall also be the duty of the Pulpit Committee to secure a speaker in the absence, for any reason, of the regular pastor.

Section 4. In securing a prospective pastor, this Pulpit Committee shall check the ability of the minister as to his standing in the community in which he lives, also to make a check on his credit rating, his home life, his ability to cooperate and work with all age groups, and to know that he has a Christian companion. This Committee shall make a check with the Church National Office for a brief on the prospective pastor, and check the State Committee as to his cooperation with the State and National Work.

Section 5. The pulpit Committee, which is the Church Council, should know and set forth to the prospective minister, the salary and benefits to be paid him. Also, it is their duty to have an understanding of what he expects of the Church as well as what the Church expects of him.

Section 6. Having first received a secret ballot of the congregation regarding any candidate for Senior Minister to determine the general feeling of the voting members, the Church Council shall appoint the Senior Minister. (amended 2-3-08)

Section 7. Having first received a secret ballot of the congregation regarding any candidate for Associate Minister to determine the general feeling of the voting members, the pastor and Church Council shall appoint the Associate Minister. (Amended 8-31-81)

Proposed – Eliminate Article X – Pulpit Committee

Rationale: This is deemed as a necessary function of the Church Council. The contents of Article X have been streamlined, and slightly revised (pertaining to the hiring of staff other than the Lead Pastor), and placed in Article V, Section 11.

Current Article XI –Ushers

Section 1. Twenty ushers shall be elected at the annual business meeting of the church for a one year term. These elected ushers shall take office immediately after being elected, they shall elect the head usher from this twenty. (amended 8-23-81)

Proposed – Eliminate Article XI – Ushers

Rationale: This system is not relevant to our practices of financial recording. Volunteer ushers are no longer required to count or record congregants giving. This duty is what necessitated ratification. Ushers may now be recruited and trained for other function of the role throughout the year and include any volunteer deemed appropriate by the lay leader acting as head usher and/or staff and Church Council. Policies and procedures regarding ushers may be created and placed in the Policies and Procedure manual, but do not need to be included as a binding article in the bylaws of the corporation.

Current Article XII – Pastor, Associate Minister

Section 1. The Pastor and Associate Minister are to be chosen as set forth in Article X on Pulpit Committee.

Section 2. The Pastor and Associate Minister are to care for the spiritual aspect of the Church and are to serve in advisory capacity to the business part of the Church.

Section 3. The salaries and benefits of the Pastor and Associate Minister are to be recommended by the Budget Committee, then approved by the General Assembly at the annual business meeting or any special called meeting for this purpose.

Section 4. The Pastor and Associate Minister must preach and practice the doctrinal truths as proclaimed by the Church of God whose headquarters are in Anderson, Indiana.

Section 5. Annually, no later than November, a pastoral survey shall be mailed to each household of the church, with a return envelope addressed to a personnel committee member. The personnel committee shall oversee the survey process. The personnel committee is to review and discuss the findings of the survey with each pastor. The committee shall also present a summary of the results to the full council. (Amended 1/21/2013)

- A. If at any time there should arise among the members of the Church that a change in the Pastor or Associate Minister would be beneficial to the Church, or if the Pastor or Associate Minister was unfaithful to his trust, to the Church, or to God, then any 10% (Based on current Church enrollment) of the voting members of the Church may petition the Council regarding a proposed change, wherein their objectives shall be carefully and prayerfully studied. Their petition must be in writing, signed and dated by the petitioners, and must state the reasons requesting such a proposed change.

- B. If at any time there should arise among at least five (5) of the elected Council of the Church that a change in the Pastor or Associate Minister would be beneficial to the Church, or if the Pastor or Associate Minister was unfaithful to his trust, to the Church, or to God, the Council shall meet with the Pastor or Associate Minister to discuss such objections. At which time, the Council shall investigate and prayerfully consider these objections. If the objections are found to have substance, the Council shall seek to remedy the situation through counseling with the Pastor or Associate Minister or through such other method deemed proper and effective, including suggesting resignation. Dismissing the Pastor or Associate Minister shall require a unanimous vote by the entire Council to propose the action, nonbinding consultation by the Church of God in Oklahoma with the Council and Church, and final approval by the Church, requiring a simple majority vote favoring removal.

If either of the above conditions should occur, and the objection cannot be appropriately resolved, the Council shall bring the matter to a vote of the Church at a special business meeting (pursuant to Article XIII, Section 2) and proceed as follows:

1. The decision to remove the Pastor or Associate Minister from the pastorate shall be put to a vote of the voting members of the Church. The removal from the pastorate shall require a simple majority vote favoring removal, and such vote shall be final. If the vote is for removal, the Council shall determine the date and terms of such termination (including applicable severance) to be within ninety (90) days, unless there has been a defection of character in the loss of recognized ministerial status. In such case, the removal shall be immediately effective, and the Church shall have no further obligation.
2. If the Pastor or Associate Minister should desire a vote regarding his continued leadership (i.e. a vote of confidence), this vote may be taken in a regular or special meeting of the Church. The details of such a vote shall be arranged by the Pastor or Associate Minister in consultation with the Council.

Section 6. The Associate Minister's duties are to be set forth by the Pastor and Church Council.

Proposed Changes to Article XII – Pastor, Associate Minister

Section 1. The Pastor and Associate Minister are to be chosen as set forth in ~~Article X on Pulpit Committee~~ **Article V, Section 11**.

Section 2. ~~The Pastor and Associate Minister~~ The Lead Pastor and accompanying Pastoral Staff are to care for the spiritual aspect of the Church and are to serve in advisory capacity to the business part of the Church.

Section 3. The salaries and benefits of the Pastor and Associate Minister **Pastoral Staff** are to be recommended by the Budget Committee. ~~, then approved by the General Assembly at the annual business meeting or any special called meeting for this purpose.~~

Section 4. The Pastor and Associate Minister **staff** must preach and practice the doctrinal truths as proclaimed by the Church of God whose headquarters are in Anderson, Indiana.

Section 5. ~~Annually, no later than November, a pastoral survey shall be mailed to each household of the church, with a return envelope addressed to a personnel committee member. The personnel committee shall oversee the survey process. The personnel committee is to review and discuss the findings of the survey with each pastor. The committee shall also present a summary of the results to the full council. (Amended 1/21/2013)~~ **The Lead Pastor shall be held accountable through an annual review process with the Church Council or designated Personnel Committee comprised of members of the Church Council. Other Pastoral Staff members will also be held accountable through annual reviews established by the Lead Pastor and Personnel Committee of the Church Council. Concerns or issues that any voting member has regarding a member of the Pastoral Staff should be dealt with in transparent conversation with the member of the Pastoral Staff, the Lead Pastor, and/or the Church Council. These items will be weighed as a portion of the annual review.**

- A. If at any time there should arise among the members of the Church that a change in the Pastor or Associate Minister would be beneficial to the Church, or if the Pastor or Associate Minister was unfaithful to his trust, to the Church, or to God, then any 10% (Based on current Church enrollment) of the voting members of the Church may petition the Council regarding a proposed change, wherein their objectives shall be carefully and prayerfully studied. Their petition must be in writing, signed and dated by the petitioners, and must state the reasons requesting such a proposed change.

- B. If at any time there should arise among at least five (5) of the elected Council of the Church that a change in the Pastor or Associate Minister would be beneficial to the Church, or if the Pastor or Associate Minister was unfaithful to his trust, to the Church, or to God, the Council shall meet with the Pastor or Associate Minister to discuss such objections. At which time, the Council shall investigate and prayerfully consider these objections. If the objections are found to have substance, the Council shall seek to remedy the situation through counseling with the Pastor or Associate Minister or through such other method deemed proper and effective, including suggesting resignation. Dismissing the Pastor or Associate Minister shall require a unanimous vote by the entire Council to propose the action, nonbinding consultation by the Church of God in Oklahoma with the Council and Church, and final approval by the Church, requiring a simple majority vote favoring removal.

If either of the above conditions should occur, and the objection cannot be appropriately resolved, the Council shall bring the matter to a vote of the Church at a special business meeting (pursuant to Article XIII, Section 2) and proceed as follows:

1. The decision to remove the Pastor or Associate Minister from the pastorate shall be put to a vote of the voting members of the Church. The removal from the pastorate shall require a simple majority vote favoring removal, and such vote shall be final. If the vote is for removal, the Council shall determine the date and terms of such termination (including applicable severance) to be within ninety (90) days, unless there has been a defection of character in the loss of recognized ministerial status. In such case, the removal shall be immediately effective, and the Church shall have no further obligation.
2. If the Pastor or Associate Minister should desire a vote regarding his continued leadership (i.e. a vote of confidence), this vote may be taken in a regular or special meeting of the Church. The details of such a vote shall be arranged by the Pastor or Associate Minister in consultation with the Council.

Section 6. The Associate Minister's duties are to be set forth by the Pastor and Church Council.

Current Article XIII – Meetings

Section 1. The annual business meeting of the Church shall be held at the First Church of God in the month of October. Notice of such meeting, including the names of the persons being voted upon, shall be given both orally and by posting on the Church bulletin board not less than seven days prior to the meeting. (Amended 1/18/15)

Section 2. A special business meeting of the Church may be called by the Pastor, through the Church Council, or by the Church Council at any time, or upon the written request of ten members of the Corporation, stating the purpose of which they desire the meeting called. For any special meeting of the Church, the Church Council President shall give seven days notice. Said notice shall state the purpose for which the meeting is called, also the place and date.

Proposed Revisions to Article XIII – Meetings

Section 1. The annual business meeting of the Church shall be held at the First Church of God ~~in the month of October~~ on a date determined by the Church Council in October and no later than November 20. Notice of such meeting, including the names of the persons being voted upon, shall be given both orally and by posting ~~on the Church bulletin board~~ in various church publications not less than seven days prior to the meeting. (Amended 1/18/15)

Section 2. A special business meeting of the Church may be called by the **Lead** Pastor, through the Church Council, or by the Church Council at any time. **Any ten voting members may also, through written submission, request the Council to schedule a special meeting. The Church Council shall weigh the request and determine the necessity of scheduling a meeting upon written request.** For any special meeting of the Church, the Church Council President shall give seven days notice. Said notice shall state the purpose for which the meeting is called, also the place and date.

Current Article XV – Elections

Section 1. The nominating committee shall nominate as set forth in Article IX to fill any vacancy, upon which the General Assembly will vote.

Section 2. The Church Council shall appoint not less than three (3) tellers, who are not on the ballot to be voted upon, to distribute the ballots and tally the votes for any regular or special election.

Proposed Revisions to Article XV – Elections

Section 1. The nominating committee shall set forth qualified nominees before the voting membership for ratification (See Article V, Section 12). Should any nominee not receive a majority of support by ratification, the Church Council shall be tasked with presenting an alternate name to fill that particular vacancy.

Section 2. The Church Council shall appoint not less than three (3) tellers, who are not on the ballot to be voted upon, to distribute the ballots and tally the votes for any regular or special election.