

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANNAPOLIS, INC.
31 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND**

19 NOVEMBER 2021

TO: MEMBERS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP IN WRITING AT LEAST SIXTY (60) DAYS BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING IN WHICH THEY ARE ACTED UPON.

THE COMMITTEE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP.

AS REQUIRED, PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO YOU AT THIS TIME SUCH THAT YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY, AND PREPARE YOURSELF TO DISCUSS AND ACT UPON THE PROPOSALS AT THE SCHEDULED 18 JANUARY 2022 ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING.

THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Rev. Vernard Brown	Sis. Quasette Crowner
Bro. Russell Pinckney	Sis. Shirley Foreman
Dr. Eleanor Harris	Sis. Georgette Lindsey
Vacancy	Vacancy
Vacancy	Vacancy
Dr. George D. Mc Neal, Chairmen	

First Baptist Church of Annapolis, Inc.

Constitution And By-Laws Committee

Proposed By-Laws Amendment

Amendment # 1

I, Cecile Jackson, move to amend Article I, Subsection 1(a), of the By-Laws by striking the last sentence.

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
a. Profession of Faith: Any person professing faith publicly in the Lord, Jesus Christ, giving evidence of a change of heart, and adopting the views of faith and practice held by this Church may, upon counseling and baptism may be received by the congregation into the membership. No person shall be received as a member of this Church to whose admission the majority of the members present object	To amend by striking - No person shall be received as a member of this Church to whose admission the majority of the members present object.	a. Profession of Faith: Any person professing faith publicly in the Lord, Jesus Christ, giving evidence of a change of heart, and adopting the views of faith and practice held by this Church may, upon counseling and baptism may be received by the congregation into the membership.
Submitted by: Cecile Jackson, Chair, Membership Committee		
Rationale: We no longer vote on membership, therefore, no opportunity for an objection is available. Even so, in 20+ years of membership, we have never witnessed one objection to a persons' membership.		
Bylaws Committee Recommendation: Adoption		
Disposition:		

First Baptist Church of Annapolis, Inc.

Constitution And By-Laws Committee

Proposed By-Laws Amendment

Amendment # 2

I, Cecile Jackson, move to amend Article I, Subsection 1(b), of the By-Laws by striking the first sentence.

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>b. Letter of Recommendation and Dismission: Members of other Baptist Churches of Anne Arundel County holding the same faith may be received by letters of recommendation and dismission from their respective churches. Letters of recommendation from other Baptist Churches should be received in 60 days. The Church Clerk should notify the Pastor and the Church when said letter is received. At that time, the new member should officially be received in the Church. If the letter is not received in the specified time, the <u>Membership Committee</u> should meet with the proposed member to offer any assistance. The person will not be considered a member in good standing until qualifications are met.</p>	<p>To amend by striking - Baptist Churches of Anne Arundel County</p> <p>Committee: Move to amend by striking Baptist Churches.</p> <p>Note: Striking out Baptist Churches from the main motion will leave these words in sub-section b).</p> <p>If primary amendment, and main motion are adopted – b) will read- Members of other Baptist Churches holding the same faith...</p>	<p>b. Letter of Recommendation and Dismission: Members of other Baptist Churches holding the same faith may be received by letters of recommendation and dismission from their respective churches. Letters of recommendation should be received in 60 days. The Church Clerk should notify the Pastor and the Church when said letter is received. At that time, the new member should officially be received in the Church. If the letter is not received in the specified time, the <u>Membership Committee</u> should meet with the proposed member to offer any assistance. The person will not be considered a member in good standing until qualifications are met.</p>
<p>Submitted by: Cecile Jackson, Chair, Membership Committee</p>		
<p>Rationale: The distinction of Baptist Churches of Anne Arundel County and Baptist Churches be deleted. Again, this is not how we have operated for many years. We have accepted members from other church denominations by letter and Christian experience if they meet the qualifications for membership outlined in Article VIII of the FBC Constitution.</p>		
<p>Bylaws Committee Recommendation: Amend the main motion by Striking Out Baptist Churches.</p>		
<p>Disposition:</p>		

First Baptist Church of Annapolis, Inc.

Constitution And By-Laws Committee

Proposed By-Laws Amendment

Amendment # 3

I, Cecile Jackson, move to amend Article I, Subsection 1(c), of the By-Laws by removing the distinction of only accepting Christian experience from a member of a Baptist church.

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>c. Christian Experience: Those who have been members of Baptist churches and, in consequence of any peculiar circumstances, do not have regular letters of recommendation and dismissal may be received by giving satisfactory evidence of Christian experience and faith. Members of other Baptist churches seeking temporary affiliation with the church shall be granted interim membership by a vote of the congregation.</p>	<p>To amend by deleting striking Baptist Churches</p> <p>Committee's reason for rejection was based on the same principles identified in Amendment # 2, that is, FBC is a Baptist Church, and not interdenominational. Therefore, c) is addressing membership of individuals based on Baptist Christian experience.</p>	<p>c. Christian Experience: Those who have been members of a church sharing the same faith, and, in consequence of any peculiar circumstances, do not have regular letters of recommendation and dismissal may be received by giving satisfactory evidence of Christian experience and faith. Members of other churches seeking temporary affiliation with the church shall be granted interim membership by a vote of the congregation.</p>
<p>Submitted by: Cecile Jackson, Chair, Membership Committee</p>		
<p>Rationale: A potential member should be accepted as long as they meet the qualifications for membership outlined in Article VIII of the FBC Constitution.</p>		
<p>Bylaws Committee Recommendation: Rejection of Proposed Amendment.</p>		
<p>Disposition:</p>		

First Baptist Church of Annapolis, Inc.

Constitution And By-Laws Committee

Proposed By-Laws Amendment

Amendment # 4

I, Cecile Jackson, move to amend Article I of the By-Laws by inserting a New Section 3

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
N/A	<p>Section 3- Inactivity by Members: When a member does not actively participate as a member of the Church but does not officially leave, they are considered inactive members and are no longer entitled to the benefits of membership.</p> <p>Committee: Move to amend by substituting</p> <p>A member of First Baptist Church of Annapolis, Inc. shall be identified as an inactive member (excluding Extended Sick & Shut In) if in a six (6) month period they fail to: 1) Meet financial obligation of membership, and 2) Attend Regular worship service. An inactive member shall loose their right and privilege of FBC membership, including the right to participate in, and vote on official matters of church business. The church clerk shall provide the roll of active members at least twice during the fiscal year.</p>	<p>Section 3 - Inactivity by Members: When a member does not actively participate as a member of the Church but does not officially leave, they are considered inactive members and are no longer entitled to the benefits of membership</p>
Submitted by: Cecile Jackson, Chair, Membership Committee		
Rationale: A previous Section 3 of Article I titled Inactivity of Members was removed by amendment in 1990. While the specific steps needed to move a member from active to inactive should be in policy, there needs to be a subsection to should that there can be inactive members. The policy document lists the exceptions, time frames, notifications, etc.		
Bylaws Committee Recommendation: Amend by substitution		
Disposition:		

First Baptist Church of Annapolis, Inc.

Constitution And By-Laws Committee

Proposed By-Laws Amendment

Amendment # 5

I, Cecile Jackson, move to amend Article I, Subsection 2(c), of the By-Laws by renumbering and Inserting the proposed language

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
N/A - New Subsection	c. Abandonment by Members: When a member does not actively participate as a member of the Church, but does not officially leave, they are considered inactive members and are no longer entitled to the benefits of membership.	c. Abandonment by Members: When a member does not actively participate as a member of the Church, but does not officially leave, they are considered inactive members and are no longer entitled to the benefits of membership.
Submitted by: Cecile Jackson, Chair, Membership Committee		
Rationale: This section addresses a member who simply stops coming/participating/financially supporting the church.		
Bylaws Committee Recommendation: Adoption		
Disposition:		

First Baptist Church of Annapolis, Inc.

Constitution And By-Laws Committee

Proposed By-Laws Amendment

Amendment # 6

I, Cecile Jackson, move to amend Article I, Subsection 2(c), of the By-Laws by Adding the proposed language

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
c. Restoration to Membership: Excluded members may be restored to membership upon confession of their errors and giving evidence of repentance. Reinstatement shall be by a majority vote of the members present.	Renumber and Add proposed language: Members who were previously inactive may present themselves for reinstatement before the congregation.	d. Restoration to Membership: Excluded members may be restored to membership upon confession of their errors and giving evidence of repentance. Reinstatement shall be by a majority vote of the members present. Members who were previously inactive may present themselves for reinstatement before the congregation
Submitted by: Cecile Jackson, Chair, Membership Committee		
Rationale: Reinstatement of an inactive member is not addressed in the bylaws. This addition provides that clarity and is how we have operated as a church.		
Bylaws Committee Recommendation: Reject proposed amendment. This membership status is addressed in current wording.		
Disposition:		