

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANNAPOLIS, INC.
31 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-2422**

17 November 2024

TO: MEMBERS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP IN WRITING AT LEASE 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 **TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2025** ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING.

THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Rev. Vernard Brown	Sis. Quasette Crowner
Bro. Russell Pinckney	Sis. Shirley Foreman
Dr. Eleanor Harris	Vacancy
Vacancy	Vacancy
Vacancy	Vacancy
Vacancy	
Dr. George D. M ^c Neal, PRP - Chairman	

**Constitution Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment 1

Amend Article VI, Section 1 by: *striking out* “~~and Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Assistant~~”

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>Section 1 – Officers – Elected/ Appointed</p> <p>a. The elected officers of this church shall include the Pastor, Deacons, Deaconesses, Clerk and Assistant Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary, Trustees, Minister of Music, ...</p>	<p>Section 1 – Officers – Elected/ Appointed</p> <p>a. The elected officers of this church shall include the Pastor, Deacons, Deaconesses, Clerk and Assistant Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary, Trustees, Minister of Music, ...</p>	<p>Section 1 – Officers – Elected/ Appointed</p> <p>a. The elected officers of this church shall include the Pastor, Deacons, Deaconesses, Clerk and Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Trustees, Minister of Music, ...</p>
<p>Proposed by: G. D. Mc Neal and Trustee’s</p>		
<p>Rationale: The church has not filled the positions of Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Financial Secretary in more than 20 years. The proposed change addresses the issue that these specific officers are not actually required.</p>		
<p>Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:</p>		
<p>Disposition (three-fourths vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____</p>		

**By-Law Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment 2

Amend Article I, Section 1a by: *striking out* “~~sole~~”

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>Section 1: Active Membership</p> <p>An active member is a member in good standing, with sole membership in FBC of Annapolis, and has met all requirements of Section 5, Duties of members of this article.</p>	<p>Section 1: Active Membership</p> <p>An active member is a member in good standing, with sole membership in FBC of Annapolis, and has met all requirements of Section 5, Duties of members of this article.</p>	<p>Section 1: Active Membership</p> <p>An active member is a member in good standing, with membership in FBC of Annapolis, and has met all requirements of Section 5, Duties of members, of this article.</p>
<p>Proposed by: Enid Collison-Lee</p>		
<p>Rationale: The proposed amendment would allow members in good standing to contribute to the church physically, spiritually and financially. Why do we want to turn members away if they affiliate with another Baptist Church in order to continue what God has told them to do, but want to continue to be a member here at FBC.</p>		
<p>Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:</p>		
<p>Disposition (two-thirds vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____</p>		

**By-Law Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment 3

Amend Article I, Section 2e by: *striking out* “~~and/or leadership position role~~”

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>Section 2(e) – Watch-Care:</p> <p>... Watch-Care members are able to participate in all ministries, for the exception of holding an office and/or leadership position role in First Baptist Church.</p>	<p>Section 2(e) – Watch-Care:</p> <p>... Watch-Care members are able to participate in all ministries, for the exception of holding an office and/or leadership position role in First Baptist Church. ...</p>	<p>Section 2(e) – Watch-Care</p> <p>... Watch-Care members are able to participate in all ministries, for the exception of holding an office in First Baptist Church.</p>
<p>Proposed by: Enid Collison- Lee</p>		
<p>Rationale: The proposed amendment would allow watch care members to be more active in the church. Maybe they want to be a Church School teacher or Sunday school teacher etc. which are leadership positions but not officer positions. If you have a capable and competent person why not allow them to use their skills in the church?</p>		
<p>Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:</p>		
<p>Disposition (two-thirds vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____</p>		

**By-Law Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment:4

Amend Article IV, New Section 3d by: *inserting* the proposed language, with renumbering.

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>Section 3 – Deacons</p> <p>d. New sub-section.</p>	<p>Section 3 – Deacons</p> <p>d. A person transferring their membership from another Baptist church to FBC who is an ordained Deacon, upon the recommendation of the Pastor may be exempt from the one-year probationary period. Then, the transferring Deacon shall be presented to the church for vote in accordance with sub-section 3(a) of this Article. If elected the deacon shall continue in office as long as he faithfully discharges his duties.</p>	<p>Section 3 – Deacons</p> <p>d. A person transferring their membership from another Baptist church to FBC who is an ordained Deacon, upon the recommendation of the Pastor may be exempt from the one-year probationary period. Then, the transferring Deacon shall be presented to the church for vote in accordance with sub-section 3(a) of this Article. If elected the deacon shall continue in office as long as he faithfully discharges his duties.</p>
<p>Proposed by: Mark Wainwright, Pastor</p>		
<p>Rationale: Deacons in Baptist churches usually go through similar training as dictated by their local convention and the National Baptist Convention. It seems redundant to have someone who has been ordained as a Baptist deacon to serve another probationary period.</p>		
<p>Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:</p>		
<p>Disposition (two-thirds vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____</p>		

**By-Law Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment:5

Amend Article IV, New Section 3d by: *inserting* the proposed language, with renumbering.

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>Section 4 – Deaconesses</p> <p>d. New sub-section.</p>	<p>Section 4 – Deaconesses</p> <p>d. A person transferring their membership from another Baptist church to FBC who is a Deaconess, upon the recommendation of the Pastor may be exempt from the one-year probationary period. Then, the transferring Deaconess shall be presented to the church for vote in accordance with sub-section 4(a) of this Article. If elected the deaconess shall continue in office as long as she faithfully discharges her duties. If any Deaconess becomes unable to fulfill her responsibility, the Ministry of Deaconesses shall take appropriate action.</p>	<p>Section 4 – Deaconesses</p> <p>d. A person transferring their membership from another Baptist church to FBC who is a Deaconess, upon the recommendation of the Pastor may be exempt from the one-year probationary period. Then, the transferring Deaconess shall be presented to the church for vote in accordance with sub-section 4(a) of this Article. If elected the deaconess shall continue in office as long as she faithfully discharges her duties. If any Deaconess becomes unable to fulfill her responsibility, the Ministry of Deaconesses shall take appropriate action.</p>
<p>Proposed by: Mark Wainwright, Pastor</p>		
<p>Rationale: While many Baptist churches have deaconesses, their roles are very similar and may include some of the duties that are carried out by deacons. It seems redundant to have someone who has served as a Deaconess in a Baptist church to serve another probationary period.</p>		
<p>Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:</p>		
<p>Disposition (two-thirds vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____</p>		

**By-Law Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment: 6

Amend Article IV, Section 5a by: *Adding* “The Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Ministry of Trustees with full voting rights.”

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>Section 5 – Trustees</p> <p>a. The Ministry of Trustees shall consist of five (5) members for the first hundred (100) members or portion thereof, and one (1) additional member for each fifty (50) members above the one hundred members or portion thereof.</p>	<p>Section 5 – Trustees</p> <p>a. The Ministry of Trustees shall consist of five (5) members for the first hundred (100) members or portion thereof, and one (1) additional member for each fifty (50) members above the one hundred members or portion thereof. <i>The Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall serve as ex-officio members of the Ministry of Trustees with full voting rights.</i></p>	<p>Section 5 – Trustees</p> <p>a. The Ministry of Trustees shall consist of five (5) members for the first hundred (100) members or portion thereof, and one (1) additional member for each fifty (50) members above the one hundred members or portion thereof. The Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall serve as ex-officio members of the Ministry of Trustees with full voting rights.</p>
<p>Proposed by: G. D. Mc Neal, and Ministry of Trustees</p>		
<p>Rationale: The Treasurer and Financial Secretary are necessary components in the workings and operations of the Ministry of Trustees. Their full participation is required and would be consistent with parliamentary procedures in a deliberative assembly when ex-officio members of the board are under the authority of the society.</p>		
<p>Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:</p>		
<p>Disposition (two-thirds vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____</p>		

**By-Law Conforming Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment 7 Only if Amendment # 6 is adopted

Amend Article IV, Section 6d by: *insert between Treasurer and shall “the proposed language”*

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>Section 6 – Treasurer</p> <p>d. The Treasurer shall attend meetings of the Ministry of Trustees and report the status of the Church’s finances as requested.</p>	<p>Section 6 – Treasurer</p> <p>d. The Treasurer shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Ministry of Trustees. The Treasurer shall attend meetings of the Ministry of Trustees and report the status of the Church’s finances as requested.</p>	<p>Section 6 – Treasurer</p> <p>d. The Treasurer shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Ministry of Trustees. The Treasurer shall attend meetings of the Ministry of Trustees and report the status of the Church’s finances as requested.</p>
<p>Proposed by: G. D. Mc Neal and Ministry of Trustees</p>		
<p>Rationale: The Treasurer a necessary component in the workings and operations of the Ministry of Trustees. Their full participation is required and would be consistent with parliamentary procedures in a deliberative assembly. RONR (12th ed.) 49:8-9</p>		
<p>Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:</p>		
<p>Disposition (two-thirds vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____</p>		

**By-Law Conforming Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment 8 Only if Amendment # 6 is adopted

Amend Article IV, Section 8e by: *insert between Financial Secretary and shall “the proposed language”*

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>Section 8 – Financial Secretary/ ...</p> <p>e. The Financial Secretary shall attend meetings of the Ministry of Trustees, and Finance committee, and render reports as requested.</p>	<p>Section 8 – Financial Secretary/ ...</p> <p>e. The Financial Secretary shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Ministry of Trustees. The Financial Secretary shall attend meetings of the Ministry of Trustees, and Finance committee, and render reports as requested.</p>	<p>Section 8 – Financial Secretary/ ...</p> <p>e. The Financial Secretary shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Ministry of Trustees. The Financial Secretary shall attend meetings of the Ministry of Trustees, and Finance committee, and render reports as requested.</p>
<p>Proposed by: G. D. Mc Neal and Ministry of Trustees</p>		
<p>Rationale: The Financial Secretary is a necessary component in the workings and operations of the Ministry of Trustees and Finance Committee. Their full participation is required and would be consistent with parliamentary procedures in a deliberative assembly,</p> <p>RONR (12th ed.) 49:8-9</p>		
<p>Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:</p>		
<p>Disposition (two-thirds vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____</p>		

**By-Law Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment: 9

Amend Article IV, Section 5b by: ~~Striking “one-third (1/3) to a term of one (1) year; one-third (1/3) to a term of two (2) years; one-third (1/3) to a term of three (3) years. At the expiration of the initial term of office of each Trustee,~~

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>Section 5 – Trustees</p> <p>b. Trustees shall be elected as follows: one-third (1/3) to a term of one (1) year; one-third (1/3) to a term of two (2) years; one-third (1/3) to a term of three (3) years. At the expiration of the initial term of office of each Trustee, the successor shall be elected to serve for a term of three (3) years. No two members...</p>	<p>Section 5 – Trustees</p> <p>b. Trustees shall be elected as follows:one-third (1/3) to a term of one (1) year; one-third (1/3) to a term of two (2) years; one-third (1/3) to a term of three (3) years. At the expiration of the initial term of office of each Trustee, successors of the initial stagger of officers shall annually be elected to serve for a term of three (3) years. No two members...</p>	<p>Section 5 – Trustees</p> <p>b. Trustees shall be elected as follows: successors of the initial stagger of officers shall annually be elected to serve for a term of three (3) years. No two members of any immediate family, i.e., mother, father, husband, wife, son, daughter, brother, or sister shall serve on the Ministry of Trustees at the same time.</p>
<p>Proposed by: G. D. Mc Neal</p>		
<p>Rationale: This language should have been adopted as a proviso. Now that the initial members have served, all candidates for the office of Trustee are elected for a term of three years.</p>		
<p>Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:</p>		
<p>Disposition (two-thirds vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____</p>		

**By-Law Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment #10

Amend Article IV, Section 15 by: *striking out* “~~the entire section~~”, with renumbering.

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>Section 15 – Director of Nurture for Baptist Churches</p> <p>a. The Director ...</p> <p>b. As an elected ...</p> <p>c. The Director shall ...</p> <p>d. The Director shall seek ...</p> <p>e. The Director shall train ...</p>	<p>Section 15 – Director of Nurture for Baptist Churches</p> <p>a. The Director ...</p> <p>b. As an elected ...</p> <p>c. The Director shall ...</p> <p>d. The Director shall seek ...</p> <p>e. The Director shall train ...</p>	
<p>Proposed by: Deaconess Vancie Hackett, Christian Education</p>		
<p>Rationale: Nurture for Baptist Churches is no longer a ministry under the United Baptist Missionary Convention nor the National Baptist Convention. It has not been a functioning program of the church in several years, therefore it should be struck from the by-laws and the position eliminated.</p>		
<p>Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:</p>		
<p>Disposition (two-thirds vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____</p>		

**Constitution Conforming Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment #11 Only if Amendment # 10 is adopted

Amend Article VI, Section 1(a) by: *striking out* “~~Director of Christian Education, and Director of Nurture for Baptist Churches~~” and *inserting* “and Director of Christian Education”.

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>Section 1 – Officers – Elected / Appointed</p> <p>a. The elected officers of this Church shall include the Pastor, Deacons, Deaconesses, Clerk and Assistant Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary, Trustees, Minister of Music, Superintendent of Church School, Director of Christian Education, and Director of Nurture for Baptist Churches. The Assistant Pastor shall be appointed as outlined in the Bylaws.</p>	<p>Section 1 – Officers – Elected / Appointed</p> <p>a. The elected officers of this Church shall include the Pastor, ... Director of Christian Education, and Director of Nurture for Baptist Churches and Director of Christian Education. The Assistant Pastor shall be appointed as outlined in the Bylaws.</p>	<p>Section 1 – Officers – Elected / Appointed</p> <p>a. The elected officers of this Church shall include the Pastor, Deacons, Deaconesses, Clerk and Assistant Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary, Trustees, Minister of Music, Superintendent of Church School, and Director of Christian Education. The Assistant Pastor shall be appointed as outlined in the Bylaws.</p>
<p>Proposed by: Constitution and By-Laws Committee</p>		
<p>Rationale: If Amendment #10 is adopted amendments 11 - 13 are conforming amendments, and are necessary to leave a coherent document.</p>		
<p>Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:</p>		
<p>Disposition (majority vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____</p>		

**By-Law Conforming Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment #12 Only if Amendment # 10 is adopted

Amend Article V, Section 1 by: *striking out* "~~Nurture for Baptist Churches,~~"

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>Section 1 - Composition and Selection:</p> <p>The Ministry of Christian Education shall be composed of representatives from those groups which are involved in the teaching ministry of the Church, e.g., the Church School, Nurture for Baptist Churches, Vacation Bible School, and those individuals, organizations ...</p>	<p>Section 1 - Composition and Selection:</p> <p>The Ministry of Christian Education shall be composed of representatives from those groups which are involved in the teaching ministry of the Church, e.g., the Church School, Nurture for Baptist Churches, Vacation Bible School, and those individuals, organizations ...</p>	<p>Section 1 - Composition and Selection:</p> <p>The Ministry of Christian Education shall be composed of representatives from those groups which are involved in the teaching ministry of the Church, e.g., the Church School, Vacation Bible School, and those individuals, organizations ...</p>
<p>Proposed by: Constitution and By-Laws Committee</p>		
<p>Rationale: If Amendment #10 is adopted amendments 11 - 13 are conforming amendments, and are necessary to leave a coherent document.</p>		
<p>Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:</p>		
<p>Disposition (majority vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____</p>		

**By-Law Conforming Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment #13 Only if Amendment # 10 is adopted

Amend Appendix C by: *striking out* "~~Last Row—Dir. NBC~~"

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
Appendix C Last Row - Dir. NBC Elected 2 Years N.C. Congregation. Majority vote	Appendix C Last Row - Dir. NBC Elected 2 Years N.C. Congregation. Majority vote	
Proposed by: Constitution and By-Laws Committee		
Rationale: If Amendment #10 is adopted amendments 11 - 13 are conforming amendments, and are necessary to leave a coherent document.		
Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:		
Disposition (majority vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____		

**By-Law Amendment
First Baptist Church of Annapolis
2025 Annual Meeting**

Amendment 14

Amend Article VI, Section 11 by: *striking out* “~~Duties in entirety~~”, and *inserting* “proposed language”

Current Wording/	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted Will Read
<p>Section 11 – Membership Committee</p> <p>b. Duties – This committee should review periodically the composition of Church committees with the Church Clerk in screening for inactive members.</p>	<p>Section 11 – Membership Committee</p> <p>b. Duties— This committee should review periodically the composition of Church committees with the Church Clerk in screening for inactive members.</p> <p>b. Duties – This committee will periodically review the composition of Church Committees to identify active members, inactive members, and those members who are or should be identified as sick and shut-in. This information will be provided to the Pastor and Ministry of Deacons to ensure appropriate spiritual care is provided.</p>	<p>Section 11 – Membership Committee</p> <p>b. Duties – This committee will periodically review the composition of Church Committees to identify active members, inactive members, and those members who are or should be identified as sick and shut-in. This information will be provided to the Pastor and Ministry of Deacons to ensure appropriate spiritual care is provided.</p>
<p>Proposed by: Denise Smith, Trustee</p>		
<p>Rationale: The current wording is confusing and makes no sense. The proposed change clarifies the appropriate level of review needed.</p>		
<p>Constitution And By-Laws Committee Recommendation:</p>		
<p>Disposition (two-thirds vote required): Affirmative Votes _____ No Votes _____</p>		