

Proposed NEBC Bylaws Changes

October 2, 2022

Over the past two years, the Elders have been prayerfully discussing amendments to our bylaws pertaining to our Deacon ministry. Following years of prayer, study of the Scriptures, and discussions both as a board and with other churches, we believe some amendments are especially necessary to bring our Deacon ministry more in line with the Scriptures and expand its impact at Northeast to better involve and serve God and our people.

In keeping with our Constitution guidelines, the following revisions are being presented to Northeast members for consideration and discussion prior to their formal presentation at our annual meeting in December, during which the Elders will call for a vote.

Members at Northeast will be given the chance to dialogue with the Board of Elders concerning this statement at an informational meeting on Wednesday evening, November 2. Should any member care to discuss this issue privately apart from that gathering, he or she may contact the elders directly at elders@nebc.ch.

Concerning our bylaws, the following revisions are being proposed regarding our definition of a deacon, the qualifications of an elder, and the qualifications of a deacon (presented in that order):

ARTICLE III – GOVERNMENT, Section 4: Duties of Officers, Part C:

Regarding “Deacons”, the current bylaws state:

- C. Deacons: the Deacons are responsible for the administrative oversight of the finances and property of the church, and specific programs as assigned by the Elders. The Deacons shall ensure the timely preparation of the annual budget in consultation with the Finance Team and/or Executive Pastor, provide an annual financial audit and keep the physical properties of the church in good repair. All actions of Deacons are subject to review and approval by the Elder Board.*

The proposed revision states:

- C. Deacons: the Deacons are responsible for works of service and ministry to the church body as assigned by the Elders in order that the Elders might devote themselves to prayer, to the ministry of the Word, and to the oversight and shepherding of the flock (Acts 6:2-6, 20-28).*
- 1. Following a nomination from the congregation, the Board of Elders shall interview and assess the biblical qualifications of the nominated individuals according to the Biblical standard (1 Tim 3:8-13) and any other qualifications as may be set forth in these Bylaws. [See Appendices D (New Deacon) and E (Existing Deacon).]*
 - 2. Deacons shall serve under and be accountable to the Board of Elders for the performance of their responsibilities.*
 - 3. Deacons shall be members of the church and in good standing.*

APPENDIX B & C – GOOD REPORT BALLOTS: New & Existing Elders

Regarding the “Qualifications of an Elder” the current bylaw appendices list:

- Qualifications of an elder (Bylaws, Article III, Section 2A):*
- 1. above reproach*

2. *the husband of one wife*
3. *temperate*
4. *prudent*
5. *respectable*
6. *hospitable*
7. *able to teach*
8. *not addicted to wine*
9. *not pugnacious*
10. *gentle*
11. *uncontentious*
12. *free from the love of money*
13. *one who manages his own household well; keeping his children under control with all dignity*
14. *not a new convert*
15. *of good reputation with those outside the church*
16. *having children who believe and who are not accused of dissipation or rebellion*
17. *not self-willed*
18. *not quick tempered*
19. *not fond of sordid gain*
20. *loving what is good*
21. *sensible*
22. *just*
23. *devout*
24. *self-controlled*
25. *holding fast the faithful Word which is in accordance with the teaching of God's Word*
26. *able to exhort in sound doctrine*
27. *able to refute those who contradict*

The proposed revision shall list:

1. *above reproach (1 Tim. 3:2 & Titus 1:6)*
2. *faithful in marriage (1 Tim. 3:2 & Titus 1:6)*
3. *temperate (1 Tim. 3:2)*
4. *prudent (1 Tim. 3:2)*
5. *respectable (1 Tim. 3:2)*
6. *hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2)*
7. *able to teach (1 Tim. 3:2)*
8. *not addicted to alcohol (1 Tim. 3:3)*
9. *not combative (1 Tim. 3:3)*
10. *gentle (1 Tim. 3:3)*
11. *not quarrelsome (1 Tim. 3:3)*
12. *free from the love of money (1 Tim. 3:3)*
13. *one who manages his own household well; keeping his children under control with all dignity (1 Tim. 3:4-5)*
14. *not a new convert (1 Tim. 3:6)*
15. *of good reputation with those outside the church (1 Tim. 3:7)*
16. *having children who believe and who are not accused of debauchery or rebellion (Titus 1:6)*
17. *not arrogant (Titus 1:7)*
18. *not quick tempered (Titus 1:7)*
19. *not greedy for gain (Titus 1:7)*
20. *loving what is good (Titus 1:8)*
21. *self-controlled (Titus 1:8)*
22. *just (Titus 1:8)*
23. *devout (Titus 1:8)*

24. *disciplined (Titus 1:8)*
25. *holding firm to the trustworthy Word as taught (Titus 1:9)*
26. *able to exhort in sound doctrine (Titus 1:9)*
27. *able to correct those who contradict biblical truth (Titus 1:9)*

APPENDIX D & E – GOOD REPORT BALLOTS: New & Existing Deacons

Regarding the “Qualifications of a Deacon” the current by-law appendices list:

Qualifications of a deacon (Bylaws, Article III, Section 2A):

1. *worthy of respect*
2. *sincere*
3. *not indulging in much wine*
4. *not pursuing dishonest gain*
5. *must keep hold of deep truths of the faith and a clear conscience*
6. *must first be tested*
7. *husband of one wife*
8. *manage children and household well*

The proposed revision shall list:

1. *worthy of respect (1 Tim. 3:8)*
2. *sincere (1 Tim. 3:8)*
3. *not addicted to alcohol (1 Tim. 3:8)*
4. *not pursuing dishonest gain (1 Tim. 3:8)*
5. *holding the truths of the faith with a clear conscience (1 Tim. 3:9)*
6. *having been tested and examined (1 Tim. 3:10)*
7. *honorable (1 Tim. 3:10)*
8. *not slanderous (1 Tim. 3:11)*
9. *sober-minded (1 Tim. 3:11)*
10. *faithful in all things (1 Tim. 3:11)*
11. *faithful in marriage (1 Tim. 3:12)*
12. *managing children and household well (1 Tim. 3:12)*