Proposed NEBC Bylaws Changes

*December 4, 2022*

Below are the current bylaws and the revisions proposed by our elders following years of prayer, with the current bylaws on the lefthand side and the propositions on the right. Deacon definitions and qualifications are listed on the first page; Elder qualifications are listed on the second page.

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

**Language Regarding “Deacons”**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The Current Bylaws | The Proposed Revision |
| 1. *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.*
 | 1. *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 D & E – GOOD REPORT BALLOTS: New & Existing Deacons**

**Appendices Lists for *Qualifications of a deacon (Bylaws, Article III, Section 2A)***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The Current Bylaws | The Proposed Revision |
| 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*
 | 1. *worthy of respect (1 Tim. 3:8)*
2. *sincere (1 Tim. 3:8)*
3. *not indulging in much wine (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)*
 |

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

**Appendices List for *Qualifications of an elder (Bylaws, Article III, Section 2A)***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The Current Bylaws | The Proposed Revision |
| 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*
 | 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 indulging in much wine (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)*
 |