

Dear Cornerstonian,

I am writing this letter to offer you a brief introduction to the changes to the by-laws. As you may or may not know, the by-laws are one of the two major governing documents of our church. They lay out policies and procedures that help to safeguard the church in many of its activities. The reason we are updating the by-laws is three-fold.

- 1) The current by-laws have places of contradiction and lack of clarity
- 2) The current by-laws have too much in them or are missing certain things
- 3) The current by-laws call for a reassessment of the by-laws every few years

Due to these reasons, the elders are proposing these updated by-laws for you to read through and vote on in the coming weeks. In order to facilitate your understanding, we have a clean copy (all changes are made and saved in the document) and a copy that tracks all the changes so that you might see the differences. The current by-laws are also on the website. The changes requiring the vote of the congregation are as follows:

- We removed the expectations of membership due to this already being in the membership course and not needing to be in the by-laws
- Trustees and Business Manager were removed due to the church not using those positions
- A contingency of keeping the current budget if a new budget was not passed was added
- The Pastoral Search section was updated to remove conflicts with how we do Pastoral searches and removes internal contradictions
- Screening results are now limited to the elders instead of Point Persons seeing them
- A section on Sabbaticals was added for Elders and Deacons
- In a few places the by-laws were updated to change voting thresholds, e.g. from three-quarters to two-thirds, always downward
- Worship Service Coordinator, Ministry Coordinator, Custodian, and Librarian were removed since none need to be in the by-laws
- A section on committee members was removed since it was unneeded
- Elder and Deacon meetings were updated to remove excess description

I hope you will read through the by-laws and see the changes we have made are for the better.

God bless!

On behalf of the Elders and the By-law Team (Jaime Makinen, Tony and Michele Raymond),

- Pastor Ron