

Quorum Requirement Presentation – Congregational Ministry Meeting May 2021

- The Issue
 - Ongoing challenge to meet current quorum requirements
- Possible Solutions
 - Move those who cannot attend (especially those in nursing homes) to inactive status
 - Allow for remote attendance via technology
 - Ramp up our 'begging to attend meetings' (which we are already doing...)
 - Lower the quorum requirements
 - Or a combination of the above
- Considerations
 - Being considered an active member of a church is often of great importance to especially the older generation and, at times, their families
 - Removing those in nursing home from the inactive list will not actually fix our problem, as this applies to only about 5 members
 - The only reason we would want to remove the names of those who have faithfully participated until their inability to do so from the active membership list is 'to make quorum'
 - The practice of other churches – we did a survey and found that we have some of the most stringent quorum requirements
 - We currently functionally have three different quorum requirements (25%+1, 50%+1, and 66.67%) for different types of meetings and decisions
 - The higher percentage requirements were put in place to protect the congregation from having few people make the more important decisions
 - Proxy voting has not been allowed (and discouraged by the denomination) as those who cast their vote are not privy to the discussion preceding a vote
- The Elders propose the following key changes to our constitution and bylaws
 - Lower and simplify our quorum requirements by setting the quorum requirement at 25% for all our meetings and congregational decisions
 - To lower the chance of 'abuse' of lower quorum requirements, the following two initiatives will be included in the changes:
 - the Elders will communicate to the congregation not only when a meeting will be held, but also what will be discussed. This information will be made available at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting
 - The more important decisions (vote of affirmation of an elder, hiring of a pastor, update of constitution or bylaws) will require a 75% approval by members present and voting. This is obviously more than a 'simple majority'
 - Though proxy voting will not be allowed, meetings may be joined remotely through an approved technology

- The Elders believe these changes will end our struggle to meet quorum requirements while protecting the organization from the possible abuse of power through lower quorum requirements. In addition, these changes will allow people to participate remotely, increasing participation, while allowing faithful members in a nursing home to continue to be considered active members. Finally, these changes continue to meet the requirements set out by the provincial Societies Act.