

Proposed Update to the Emmanuel Church Constitution
November 9, 2022

Over the past number of years, we have struggled to meet the different quorum requirements laid out in our constitution and bylaws. At times this has meant that votes were delayed and subsequent meetings had to be convened.

There are a number of reasons for our struggle to meet the requirements, including (but not limited to) a number of members who are not being able to attend our meetings in person or via technology, as well as a lack of interest among some of our members to make church business meetings a priority.

At the 2022 Annual General Meeting, the membership voted on a proposal to change the quorum requirements. This proposal would have seen the quorum for all congregational decisions set at 25%+1 of our active membership. And though a number of safeguards to avoid any abuse of power were included in the proposal, the outcome of the vote was not sufficient to pass the proposal. The elders then convened a working group to address this issue, resulting in the following proposal.

Regular Congregational Meetings & Decisions

To keep the current quorum requirement for a congregational meeting at 25% +1.
To pass a motion, a simple majority of those members present and voting is required

The Three Weightier Decisions (calling of a pastor, affirming an elder, and changing the constitution & bylaws)

Quorum requirement of 40%+1

To pass a motion for any of these 'weightier' decisions 75% of those members present and voting need to be in favor

In addition, the topics of items to be discussed at a meeting and the names of proposed Elders will be made public at least 14 days in advance of the meeting. This should protect the organization from any group forcing a decision without the knowledge of the membership at large.

The elders plan to present this new proposal at the 2023 AGM for ratification. For that vote to take place, a detailed document containing the actual proposed changes to the different articles of our constitution will be made available 30 days prior to that meeting. For now, we encourage you to contact any of the elders with any questions or concerns about these proposed changes.