

# PROPOSED CONSTITUTION MODIFICATIONS

*On April 27, the Woodside Bible Church Elders met with church members to share proposed updates to the church constitution. Based on feedback from that meeting, the elders have approved the additional modifications below.*

## Article II – Purpose

**CURRENT:** Helping people BELONG to Christ, GROW in Christ, and REACH the world for Christ.

**SUGGESTED:** To glorify God by making disciples.

## Article III – Statement of Faith, Section 6 – Salvation

**CURRENT:** Salvation is a work of God's grace that involves the redemption of the whole person and is offered freely to all who place their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior — who, by His own blood, obtained eternal redemption for the believer and saves us from eternal judgement. In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

**SUGGESTED:** Salvation is a work of God's grace that involves the redemption of the whole person and is offered freely to all who place their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior — who, by His own blood, obtained eternal redemption for the believer and saves us from eternal judgement. When we repent, turn from our self-ruled, sin-filled lives, and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

## Article III – Statement of Faith, Section 8 – The Believer

**CURRENT:** Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading. The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to full-time Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry.

The Holy Spirit endows each believer with spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are to be used with decency and order, governed by love for the edification of the Church and in service to the world.

**SUGGESTED:** Every believer has direct access to God through Jesus Christ and should nurture that relationship through disciplines like prayer and Bible reading. The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to full-time Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry.

The Holy Spirit endows each believer with spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are to be used with decency and order, governed by love for the edification of the Church and in service to the world.

## **Article IV – Membership, Section 4 – Miscellaneous (Moved to a new Article XII)**

**CURRENT:** Consistent with WBC’s sincerely held religious beliefs, gender-specific bathroom facilities and other gender-specific facilities on WBC property may only be utilized consistent with the sex traditionally assigned at birth – not gender identity or expression – regardless of whether an individual is a member of WBC or not.

**SUGGESTED:** Consistent with WBC’s sincerely held religious beliefs, gender-specific bathroom facilities and other gender-specific facilities on WBC property may only be utilized consistent with one’s biological sex determined at birth in keeping with a traditional Christian sexual ethic – not gender identity or expression – regardless of whether an individual is a member of WBC or not.

## **Article VI – Governance, Section 1 – Elder Boards, B. Function**

**CURRENT:** The Elder Board shall serve as the highest ecclesiastical authority of the Church. It shall act as the ultimate decision-maker on matters of ecclesiastical polity, the Statement of Faith, WBC property, and any other issues related to the church’s internal operations and governance. If any question arises regarding ecclesiastical polity, the Statement of Faith, membership discipline, WBC property, or any other matter concerning

WBC—whether raised by a member, congregant, visitor, or any individual receiving ministry during religious services or at other times—the Elder Board shall have the authority to resolve such matters. The process and criteria for making these determinations shall be established by the Elder Board.

**SUGGESTED:** The membership designates the Elder Board as the highest ecclesiastical authority of WBC. It shall act as the ultimate decision-maker on questions arising regarding ecclesiastical polity, the Statement of Faith, membership discipline, WBC property, or any other matter concerning WBC—whether raised by a member, congregant, visitor, or any individual receiving ministry during religious services or at other times—and shall have the authority to resolve such matters. The process and criteria for making these determinations shall be established by the Elder Board.

## **Article VIII – Ordination, Commissioning, and Licensing, Section 3 – Licensing**

**CURRENT:** As Spirit-filled men and women are called out from among us to full-time Christian ministry, such men and women who have a minimum of two (2) years of ministry experience at WBC or in another WBC approved church ministry context and who have been a believer for at least three (3) years may be licensed. The Elder Board shall determine the process and requirements for licensing. Upon successful completion of the prescribed process, the Elder Board shall determine by a two-third (2/3) vote whether to license such an individual.

**SUGGESTED:** As Spirit-filled men and women are called to serve in full-time Christian ministry, such men and women who have a minimum of two (2) years of ministry experience at WBC or in another WBC approved church ministry context and who have been a believer for at least three (3) years may be licensed. The Elder Board shall determine the process and requirements for licensing. Upon successful completion of the prescribed process, the Elder Board shall determine by a two-third (2/3) vote whether to license such an individual.

## **Article XII becomes Article XIII**

## **Article XIII becomes Article XIV**