



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

(Disciples of Christ)

Church Family,

Churches of all faiths in the United States have unfortunately seen reductions in memberships ever since COVID, at a time when our country desperately needs active membership and leadership. FCC can be ever so proud, that we have found ways to do even more, with less. That's all due to the excellent family we have under this roof. And with you, there is no reason to believe our future won't continue to shine brightly in our community. To achieve this, we need to be flexible and pragmatic. With that in mind, the Church's Administrative Council recommends the adoption of amendments to our Constitution.

Initially, we suggest changes to the elective terms of our officers. When much of our initial Constitution was written, membership was twice our current numbers, which provided for an abundance of potential candidates. With that abundance, it was decided to require a year's sabbatical after the service of every officer's term expiration. With more limited numbers, that is unfortunately no longer practical. That rule has had to say no to excellent and faithful leaders who were willing to continue their service for another term. While we continue to urge and hope for new leaders among the congregation, the *Administrative Council suggests deleting the mandatory sabbatical, allowing officers to be eligible for reelection.*

Likewise, the Administrative Council suggests a change to the length of terms for our Trustees from 6 years; to 3 years, believing asking for a 6-year commitment is a significant ask for anyone in these changing times. This change would also bring their term length to be the same for Elders and Deacons, for consistency.

The last change regards the Notice to members for changes to the Constitution. *Currently, we require notice through US Mail, both a slow and quite expensive proposition. The change suggested the reality of the internet and its inherent speed over "snail mail".*

The proposals are submitted for your review and consideration, which we will present for a vote of the Church on October 27. If you have any questions or wish to discuss, please feel free to see me or any of the Administrative Council members, Barbara Cole, Elaine Cole, Steve Cole, Jayne Freeman, Pamala Leech, Bob Roset, or Rev. Kenny Hardway.

Much thanks for your consideration and dedication to the Church.

John Parr, President

We are Disciples of Christ,

A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

• Disciples of Christ Statement of Identity





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PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

1. The first change would allow for individuals who hold the position of Elder or Deacon to be re-elected to the same position without having to take one year off.
Currently reads:
Section A. Officers to be Elected
1. (Second Sentence) Elders and deacons may be re-elected to the same office only after one year has elapsed, but may be elected to serve a new office without the required one year off.
Proposed Change – delete in entirety and replace with the following:
With the exception of President and President-Elect of the Congregation, members who are completing their time of service are eligible for re-election of that office of another position.
2. This change reduces the service time for Trustees from a six-year term to three years.
Currently reads:
Section A. Officers to be Elected
1c. Trustees: Not to exceed three (3) in number, one-third of whom shall be elected every (2) years for a term of six (6) years.
Proposed Change:
1c. Trustees: Not to exceed three (3) in number, one-third of whom shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years
i. Election of Trustees under these terms shall begin in December of 2025.
ii. Current Trustees' terms will expire in 2024, 2025, 2026
3. This change negates the need and cost of mailing to members proposed Amendment changes, allowing notice of changes to be given on Church website.
Currently reads:
Article VII. Amendments
This constitution may be emended (sic) at any business meeting of the Church by two-thirds of the members present and voting on the Amendment(s), provided written notice has been sent through the mail to members of the congregation at least two weeks prior to the time the vote is to be taken.
Proposed Change:
The Constitution may be amended at any business meeting of the Church by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting on the Amendment(s), provided notice has been put on the church's website at least two weeks prior to the time the vote is to be taken.

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