

THALIA LYNN BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday, January 19, 2025
CALLED BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Agenda

1. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee and the Elder Leadership Ad-Hoc Committee make a motion that the church approve the Elder-Led Model of Leadership for Thalia Lynn Baptist Church and the Constitution and By-Laws be amended to include the following:

- **Qualifications for an Elder**
- **Elder Selection and Affirmation**
- **Elder Responsibilities**
- **Number of Elders**
- **Elder Term of Service**
- **Elder Meetings**
- **Elder Resignations, Terminations, Dismissals**

as defined in the attached (see *“Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Amendment* beginning on page 2).

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

(Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Amendment)

Part IV – ELDERS

A. QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN ELDER

Elders will meet all Biblical qualifications listed below.

ABOVE REPROACH

1 Timothy 3:2,

Titus 1:6

Live an exemplar lifestyle free from sin, deserving respect and a good reputation.

HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE

1 Timothy 3:2,

Titus 1:6

Demonstrate faithfulness in marriage.

TEMPERATE

1 Timothy 3:2

Exhibit mental, emotional and spiritual stability in words and actions.

PRUDENT

1 Timothy 3:2,

Titus 1:8

Live a righteous lifestyle displaying self-control and grace in ways worthy of honor.

RESPECTABLE

1 Timothy 3:2

Demonstrate a well-ordered life and honorable behavior.

HOSPITABLE

1 Timothy 3:2,

Titus 1:8

Live a life demonstrating unselfishness and generosity.

ABLE TO TEACH

1 Timothy 3:2,

Titus 1:9

Demonstrate an ability to communicate truth and sound doctrine with integrity.

NOT GIVEN TO DRUNKENNESS

1 Timothy 3:3,

Titus 1:7

Live with spiritual authenticity and freedom from hypocrisy providing a respected testimony to unbelievers in the community.

LOVE WHAT IS GOOD

Titus 1:8

Live a life pursuing Godly activities.

JUST

Titus 1:8

Desire to make all judgments based on Scripture principles.

DEVOUT

Titus 1:8

Live a holy and righteous life devoted to seeking God's will. Must be committed to prayer, worship and the study of Scriptures.

B. ELDER SELECTION AND AFFIRMATION

Members of the congregation shall be given the opportunity to complete a written Nomination Form or nominate electronically the name of a nominee(s) to be considered to serve as an Elder, being a spiritual mature church member, an active participant in church programs and faithfully contributes to support all ministries and missions of the church.

The nominee(s) is then screened by a Vetting Committee utilizing phone conversations, questionnaires, personal interviews and a background check to determine if the nominee(s) meets the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9.

The name(s) of the qualified nominee(s) shall then be announced to the congregation for an opportunity to comment their concerns regarding the nominee(s) to the Vetting Committee. After two weeks and a review of any comments, a final decision is made by the Vetting Committee regarding whether to move forward with the installation process.

A Church Business Meeting shall be called, and the name(s) of the nominee(s) shall be presented to the congregation for affirmation by a written ballot(s). The tenure of service for a new Elder begins immediately following the affirmation. Plans will be made and announced for a service to ordain the nominee(s) to the office of Elder.

C. ELDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Elders of Thalia Lynn Baptist Church are responsible for the following but may delegate to other qualified persons in the body of the church, so duties are carried out effectively and in a timely manner.

Provide Spiritual Oversight

- * Confront false teaching and behavior inconsistent to biblical truth.
- * Facilitate the stages of conflict resolution and implement appropriate church discipline as necessary.
- * Implement and monitor compliance with Elder policy and procedure.
- * Plurality of leadership and mutual accountability.

Shepherd the Flock

- * Participate (as needed) in a biblical process of conflict resolution outlined by Jesus in *Matthew 18*.
- * Direct members into appropriate process for spiritual health, assistance, and problem resolution.
- * On-going assessment of our mission doctrine.
- * Able to teach and defend sound doctrine.
- * Encourage the staff and ministries of Thalia Lynn Baptist Church.
- * Pray for others and model Christian behavior.

Manage the Church

- * Affirm the annual church budget as developed by the Church Finance Committee.
- * Approve Church policy and ensure that all ministries align with Thalia Lynn Baptist Church's mission, vision, values and beliefs.
- * Lead church unity, settle disputes and resolve conflict.
- * Provide wise counsel to ministers and staff.
- * Recommend and affirm By-law changes and management for congregational approval.
- * Encourage and conduct an annual review of the senior pastor.
- * Affirm and review annual evaluations of ministerial staff.

- * Facilitate with the congregation, the nomination and selection of new Elders.
- * Delegate to qualified assistants, staff, and/or outside experts as needed on church matters.
- * Manage situations where members, particularly active members, are experiencing significant relational difficulties or moral failure.
- * Affirm new ministries and staff positions as recommended by the Church Personnel Committee.
- * Elder Chairman or a representative shall attend Church Council Meetings.
- * Execute senior pastor duties in absence of pastor as needed to preach, teach and affirm pastoral search committee recommendations prior to presentation to congregation.
- * Oversee recommendations for seminary admission applications and the processes of licensing and ordaining of church members entering the Ministry.

D. NUMBER OF ELDERS

The number of Elders shall be determined by the Elders to meet the needs of the ministry.

Such number shall include the Senior Pastor and shall not be less than five (5) people or more than nine (9) that satisfy qualifications of office of Elder set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9.

E. ELDER TERM OF SERVICE

Elders shall be affirmed by the congregation for a five (5) year term of service with a minimum of a one (1) year sabbatical to become eligible to serve again. Eligibility for re-election to another five-year term shall follow a status evaluation by the current Elders.

The term of a new Elder begins immediately following the affirmation. The terms assigned initially shall be staggered to assure continuity as only a portion of serving Elders will expire each year.

F. ELDER MEETINGS

Elder meetings shall be held regularly for the purpose of prayer, shepherding, discernment and ministry guidance.

The Elders shall elect a Chairman among themselves to preside in Elder meetings. In an absence, the Elders shall appoint another Elder to temporarily fulfill these duties.

The Elders shall elect a Secretary to record minutes of regular and special meetings and provide a copy of the minutes at the next meeting. A written copy shall be filed in the Church Office.

Regular meetings of the Elders shall be held monthly. Active attendance and participation are required.

Special meetings of the Elders may be called at any time by order of the Chairman, or by a majority of the Elder membership.

Elder meetings may be held utilizing electronic communication or conference telephone calls. All Elders participating in the meeting must have the ability to simultaneously hear/see each other and respond vocally. Members participating in such meetings are deemed present in person at the meeting.

Any emergent action required of the Elders may be taken if all Elders, individually or collectively consent in writing to the action. Such action by written consent shall have the same effect as the unanimous vote of the Elders. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the Elders' meetings.

The Elder Chairman may call at any time a Called Business Meeting of the Church. Such meetings shall be held only after notice has been posted on the church website or has been printed in the church newsletter at least one week in advance stating the purpose for the meeting, date, time and place.

Those Elders present and voting at a duly called meeting shall constitute a **quorum** for the transaction of business provided two-thirds (2/3) of the Elders are present excluding the Pastor.

The Senior Pastor, while serving as a member of the Elders, will be without voting privileges.

To be approved, all actions by the Elders must receive a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

The removal of an Elder shall require the vote of a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) of the remaining Elders and the approval of the Senior Pastor.

G. ELDER RESIGNATIONS, TERMINATIONS, DISMISSALS

An Elder's term of office may be terminated by resignation, removal, death or no longer a member of the church.

RESIGNATION

An Elder may at any time deliver to the Chairman of Elders a written notice of intent to resign, which shall be effective upon acceptance by the Elders.

REMOVAL by church action

If an Elder's faith and daily conduct are against the teaching of the Bible or the ministry and Constitution & By-Laws of Thalia Lynn Baptist Church, the Elder may be removed at any time from the office of Elder.

Any two church members with reason to believe that an Elder should be removed should express such concern to the Elders and if need be, afterwards to the congregation.

Any such action shall be done in accordance with the instructions of our Lord in Matthew 18: 15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:17-21.

An Elder shall be removed in either of two ways:

(a) Two-thirds (2/3) vote of the current Elders at a duly called Elders' meeting and approved
by the Senior Pastor

OR

(b) Two-thirds (2/3) vote in Church Business Meeting by those members present to meet a quorum.

VACANCY

The Elders shall determine if and when a vacancy shall be filled if there is a sufficient number of remaining Elders. If a new Elder is needed, the selection and election process in accordance with the Elder Bylaws shall be followed.

In the event that a vacancy occurs at any time prior to the expiration of the departing Elder's term of office, the Elders may recommend to the congregation for affirmation a qualified individual to fill the vacated position for the remainder of the term. The affirmed individual is then eligible to be reaffirmed by the congregation to fill one subsequent complete term, but must then take a minimum of one year off before becoming eligible to serve again.
