

# First Evangelical Free Church, Minneapolis

## Proposed Bylaws Revision

November 2025

### Overview

This Bylaws revision was approved by the First Free Church Council on September 21, 2025. It will be introduced at the November 17, 2025 quarterly business meeting, and a vote for approval will take place at the February 23, 2026 quarterly business meeting.

There are two goals for this Bylaws revision:

1. Create a Housing Commission separate from the Property Commission, to oversee the church house properties and oversee the area of ministry related to the houses.
2. Provide more flexibility for elections to Officer, Council and Commission offices by allowing for 1-year terms as needed to preserve balance and stagger terms.

See [our current bylaws](#) for reference.

### Details

#### Change #1 - Housing Commission

## ARTICLE VI - MINISTRY COMMISSIONS

The Council shall fulfill some of its responsibilities through Ministry Commissions. The Ministry Commissions may include, but are not limited to, the Outreach Commission, Caring Commission, ~~and~~ Property Commission, [and Housing Commission](#). Any Ministry Commission shall be formed or dissolved based on the needs of the Church, the recommendation of the Council, and approved by a majority vote of the Congregation.

A. *[Section A omitted; covered in change #2]*

#### B. MINISTRY COMMISSIONS - DESCRIPTIONS

##### 1. OUTREACH COMMISSION

This Ministry Commission shall plan, implement, and oversee all evangelism and missionary ministries of the church, and such other assignments as may be

proposed and accepted in the joint consultation of the Council and Ministry Commission.

## 2. CARING COMMISSION

This Ministry Commission shall plan, implement, and oversee all special needs and people-helping ministries of the church, and such other assignments as may be proposed and accepted in the joint consultation of the Council and Ministry Commission.

## 3. PROPERTY COMMISSION

This Ministry Commission shall oversee the proper maintenance, management, and care of all church facilities and properties, except for those houses under the care of the Housing Commission. This Ministry Commission's responsibilities include the upkeep, repair, and improvement of the church buildings, grounds, and related facilities, ensuring that they are safe, functional, and supportive of the church's ministries. This Ministry Commission may provide assistance to the Housing Commission on building or repair matters when requested. Other assignments may be proposed and accepted in the joint consultation of the Council and Ministry Commission.

## 4. HOUSING COMMISSION

This Ministry Commission shall oversee the proper maintenance, management, and care of the houses owned by the church. Its responsibilities include developing policies for the use of the houses. These policies may include finding suitable tenants in keeping with the church's mission, which may include, but is not limited to, supporting staff, missionaries, and people in need, and managing the church's relationship with those tenants. The policies may also include non-tenant ministry uses for the houses. This Ministry Commission shall also be responsible for the upkeep and repair of the houses under its care, in coordination with the Property Commission where appropriate. Other assignments may be proposed and accepted in the joint consultation of the Council and Ministry Commission.

Change #2 - Elected term flexibility

# ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

## A. DEFINITION

1. The officers of this congregation shall be: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

2. The officers shall also be members and officers of the Council.
3. Only members of this congregation shall serve as officers, and shall meet the Biblical standards for leadership as described in Acts 6, I Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
4. The officers shall be elected at the February congregational business meeting by the congregation for a term of two years, or until their successors are duly elected. The term of office shall commence on the following June 1. No one shall serve simultaneously in more than one office. Continuous service in any office shall be limited to a maximum of three terms. Vacancies among the officers shall be filled according to Article V, A, 10. If a sitting Council member is nominated for an officer position mid-term, the Congregation may elect that individual to a one-year officer term so that their Council term and overall eligibility limits are not altered. In addition, officer terms are intended to be staggered so that not all officer positions conclude in the same year. To establish or restore staggering, the Congregation may, when necessary, elect an officer for a one-year term. A one-year term shall count toward the maximum consecutive service limit.

B. *[Section B omitted; no changes]*

## ARTICLE V - COUNCIL

### A. COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION

1. *[Subsections 1-8 omitted; no changes]*
9. The elected members of the Council shall serve two year terms, and shall be elected by the Congregation at the February congregational business meeting so that the terms of one-half will terminate each year. An elected member who has completed three consecutive full terms shall not be eligible for re-election to the Council for one year. Council members shall assume their offices on June 1 following election by the Congregation. If an elected Council member is subsequently elected as an officer during their Council term, their underlying Council term shall count toward the maximum consecutive service limit for Council membership, and their underlying Council term shall continue unaffected.
10. *[Subsections 10-12 omitted; no changes]*

## ARTICLE VI - MINISTRY COMMISSIONS

*[Preamble omitted; covered in change #1]*

### A. ORGANIZATION

Ministry Commissions shall be staffed to discharge duties as required in accordance with the stated purpose of the church and as follows. Each Ministry Commission shall be responsible to the Council for carrying out its assigned functions.

1. MINISTRY COMMISSION MEMBER QUALIFICATION

Ministry Commission members shall be members of the church in good standing and shall meet the spiritual requirements for leadership stated in Acts 6, I Timothy 3 and Titus 1.

2. MINISTRY COMMISSION STRUCTURES

Each Ministry Commission shall consist of a chairman, vice chairman, Council member(s), pastoral staff member(s), and other members approved by the Council.

- a. The chairman and the vice chairman of each Ministry Commission shall be elected by the Congregation for a two (2) year term, with the intent that their terms be staggered so that both do not conclude in the same year. To establish or restore staggering, or when a new Ministry Commission is formed, the Congregation may, when necessary, elect one of them to a one (1) year term. A one-year term shall count toward the maximum consecutive service limit. The chairman and vice chairman ~~and~~ may not serve more than three (3) consecutive terms ~~in succession~~, not counting the filling of any unexpired term. The chairman and vice chairman shall assume their offices on June 1st, following election by the congregation.

- b. *[Items b-f omitted; no changes]*

3. *[Subsections 3-6 omitted; no changes]*

B. *[Section B omitted; covered in change #1]*