

# **By-Laws of Lexington Chinese Christian Church**

**Revised and adopted February 19, 2012**

**By-laws of Lexington Chinese Christian Church (5.0)**

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**ARTICLE 1 NAME**

The name of this organization shall be called The Lexington Chinese Christian Church (LCCC).

**ARTICLE 2 PURPOSES**

1. To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
2. To gather for worship;
3. To make disciples;
4. To promote fellowship;
5. To provide Christian services primarily to the Chinese community in Central Kentucky.

**ARTICLE 3 STATEMENT OF FAITH**

1. There is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitution sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of God on high as our great High Priest. He will come again to establish His kingdom of righteousness and peace.
3. The Holy Spirit is a member of the triune God, sent to indwell, guide, teach, empower the believer, and convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.
4. The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.
5. Man was created in the image of God: He fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through belief in the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The consequence of unbelief is existence in conscious torment forever; and that of belief, in everlasting joy and bliss.
6. Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men; and those who repent and believe in Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, and become the children of God.
7. It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly, being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy

living and effective service. This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion.

8. Provision is made in the redemptive word of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body.

9. The Church consists of all those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the head of the Body, the Church, which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the Gospel to all nations. The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the Gospel, and observance of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

10. There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life; for the latter, and a resurrection until judgment.

11. The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent and will be personal and visible. This is the believer's blessed hope and is a vital truth which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service.

## **ARTICLE 4 MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1 Qualifications**

1. A member must

A. Be 18 years of age or older.

B). Be a baptized Christian who subscribes to the statement of faith and the by-laws of the LCCC.

C). Be willing to fulfill the membership covenant as described in the form of the Application of Membership of LCCC established by the Governing Board.

2. Active member and inactive member

A.) Active members are new members or existing members who renew the membership covenant every two years in December.

B) Inactive member: unable to maintain active membership.

### **Section 2 Procedures**

1. Any qualified person may contact one of the elders to apply for membership.

2. Any candidate member will be interviewed by the Board of Elders.

3. The application for membership shall be approved by the Board of Elders.

**Section 3 Termination**

1. Active membership may be terminated by voluntary withdrawal or transfer to other churches or fellowships upon notification to the Board of Elders.
2. Active membership may be automatically changed to an inactive status after 6 months of absence without notifying the Board of Elders the reason for his/her absence.
3. Active membership may be automatically converted to inactive membership if he/ she does not complete the membership renewal procedure.
4. Active membership may be terminated due to failure to fulfill the Rights and Responsibilities of the membership or due to repeated actions against bible teaching, the interest of the church or church members, as determined by the Board of Elders. A unanimous decision of the Board of Elders is required to expel such member(s). A written notice of expulsion by the Board of Elders of expulsion shall be given to such member(s).

**Section 4 Rights and Responsibilities**

1. Rights:

- A). All active members shall have the right to vote at the congregational meeting.
- B). All active members shall have the right to present items of congregational interest to the Governing Board.
- C). All active members shall have the right to be nominated and/or hold the positions of elders and deacons/deaconess.
- D). Members who are absent longer than 6 months or have left the Central Kentucky area permanently will lose the above rights.
- E). Inactive members who want to reactivate their above rights need to reapply for active membership.

2. Responsibilities:

- A). All members are expected to support the decisions made by the Governing Board and/or congregational meeting.
- B). All members are expected to grow in personal integrity and discipline by
  - (a) Regular and effective time spent in devotion
  - (b) Faithful attendance of church wide meetings
  - (c) Active participation in a cell group of choice
  - (d) Faithful service in church according to one's gifts and interests

- (e) Basic predetermined plan of periodic giving
- (f) Caring for brothers and sisters at LCCC and reaching out to unbelievers
- (g) Not gossiping about brothers and sisters.

## **ARTICLE 5 GOVERNMENT**

### **Section 1 Congregational Meeting**

1. There shall be an annual meeting to be held in the month of November. The chairperson of the Governing Board or his designate shall preside the meeting. The order of business for the annual meeting shall be as follows:

- A) Report of the Governing Board
- B) Report of the pastor
- C) Report of all departments
- D) New business from the Governing Board and the congregation
- E) Report of nomination committee
- F) Election of elders and deacons/deaconesses
- G) Adjournment

2. Additional congregational business meetings may be called by the chairperson of the Governing Board or the Board of Elders by notifying the members at least seven days prior to the meeting.

3. A quorum shall consist of at least half of the active members.

4. Voting shall be by ballot or as otherwise determined by the raising of hands, with eligibility of voters established with reference to the membership list. Ballots marked with “yes” or “no” are considered valid. Ballots with no choice marked or more than one choice marked are considered invalid. The valid ballots shall be more than 75% of the active members at the congregation meeting; otherwise the vote is considered invalid. Based on the valid votes collected, a majority vote at which a quorum, as defined above, is present shall be required for official action except for the following decisions in which a three-fourth (75%) majority shall be required:

- A) Calling and/or dismissal of pastor(s)
- B) Purchase and/or renovation of church building
- C) Approval and major changes of annual LCCC budget
- D) Approval of by-law amendments

- E) Affiliation, joining or leaving a denomination
- F) Reallocation of major church funds including pastor fund and building fund
- G) Approval of expenses over \$10,000.00.

5. An absentee vote will not be considered except in extreme cases approved by the Board of Elders.
6. The decision made in the congregational meeting shall be the final decision binding over all other LCCC governing bodies.
7. The budget for the next fiscal year shall be prepared by both new and old members of the Governing Board. It shall be considered and approved prior to the second month of the fiscal year by the congregation.

## **Section 2 Governing Board**

### 1. Composition:

The Governing Board shall include: the Pastor, the chairperson, the vice-chairperson, Elders, and deacons/deaconesses.

### 2. Officers of the Governing Board:

#### A) Positions of the officers:

The Governing Board shall have a chairperson and a vice chairperson. The office manager (or an equivalent position) will participate in the Governing Board meeting as a secretary with no voting privilege.

#### B) Election:

The chairperson and the deacons/deaconesses shall be elected annually by the congregation. The elders shall be confirmed annually. Only one person per family can be elected to the Board, unless the availability of a suitable nominee cannot be found and that family is willing to serve, in which case, must be approved by the existing Governing Board.

#### C.) Duties:

- a) The chairperson shall call and preside the Governing Board meeting and the congregational meetings.
- b) The chairperson shall sign all legal documents of the church.
- c) The chairperson shall coordinate all the administrative duties of LCCC.
- d) The chairperson is responsible for coordinating the use of church facilities, in consultation with the trustee.
- e) In case the chairperson is absent, the vice chairperson shall be acting on his/her behalf.
- f) The secretary shall keep the minutes of each board and congregational meeting.

**By-laws of Lexington Chinese Christian Church (6.0)**

- g) The secretary shall be responsible for the correspondence of the Governing Board.
- h) The secretary shall be one of the tellers during the election of the chairperson, elders and deacons/deaconesses at the congregational meeting.

3. Meeting and Quorum:

The Governing Board meetings shall be held every month. Additional Board meetings can be called by the chairperson as deemed necessary. A quorum shall consist of at least two-thirds of the Board members.

4. Duties:

A) The Governing Board shall conduct the affairs of the LCCC and is accountable to the congregation.

B) With a three-fourth majority vote of the Governing Board members, the Governing Board makes recommendations for the following major decisions at the congregational meeting:

- a) Calling and/or dismissal of pastor(s)
- b) Purchase and renovation of church building
- c) Approval and major changes of annual LCCC budget
- d) Approval of by-law amendments
- e) Affiliation, joining or leaving a denomination
- f) Reallocation of major LCCC funds including pastor fund and building fund

C) With a three-fourth majority vote of the Governing Board members, the Governing Board makes the following major decisions:

- a) Use of LCCC fund for investment
- b) Change of meeting place and time
- c) Approval of major decisions made by each department
- d) Decision on disposition of LCCC assets
- e) Conduct review of the pastor and make decision to continue or discontinue the term of the pastorate.

D) The Governing Board shall appoint Ad Hoc committees for the LCCC.

E) The Governing Board shall organize revival meetings and retreats

F) The Governing Board is responsible for all other decisions delegated to it by the congregation.

G) With a unanimous vote, the Governing Board reserves the final authority to overturn the decisions of the congregation for the welfare of the church under extreme circumstances.

## **ARTICLE 6 PASTOR**

### **Section 1 Qualification**

1. The candidate shall adhere to the statement of faith as cited in Article 3.
2. The candidate shall have received formal theological training.
3. The candidate shall demonstrate language proficiency in both Chinese and English.

### **Section 2 Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Full Time Senior Pastor
  - A) Shall be the official representative of LCCC.
  - B) Shall promote and advance the spiritual interest of the LCCC.
  - C) Shall be responsible for the pulpit ministry.
  - D) Shall be responsible for counseling ministry.
  - E) Shall be active in evangelism.
  - F) Shall attend the Board of Elders and the Governing Board meetings and be a voting member of each board, except when there is a conflict of interest as judged by the Board of Elders.
  - G) Shall be an ex officio of all LCCC committees.
  - H) Shall be responsible for all other matters recommended by the Board of Elders.
2. Part Time or other specialized ministry pastors
  - A) In case the position of the full-time senior Pastor is vacant, the part-time Pastor shall be the official representative of LCCC.
  - B) In case the position of the full-time senior Pastor is vacant, the part-time Pastor shall attend the Governing Board meeting, and be a voting member of the Governing Board. In the event of more than one part-time Pastors, the collective one vote from the Pastors shall be cast by the Pastor with the most seniority in LCCC.
  - C) Shall be responsible for duties delegated by the Governing Board.
  - D) Other specialized ministry Pastors will be appointed as deemed necessary but will not be members of the Governing Board.

### **Section 3 Calling**

The pastor(s) of the LCCC shall be called by the Governing Board and approved by a three-fourth majority of valid votes from the members who are present at the congregational meeting at which a quorum is present.

### **Section 4 Term**

The initial term of pastorate shall be for twelve (12) months with annual review; subsequent terms shall be for three (3) years with satisfactory annual reviews. The Governing Board will conduct the review and make the decision to continue or discontinue the term of the pastorate, based on the review, the financial condition of the



church and membership opinions. The decision has to be supported by three-fourth majority of the Governing Board.

**Section 5 Compensation**

The pastor's compensation shall be recommended and subjected to review annually by the Governing Board and shall be included in the budget presented to the members at the congregational meeting.

**Section 6 Ordination**

The recommendation and the procedure for ordination of a pastor at the LCCC shall be determined by the Governing Board with a three-fourth majority vote.

**Section 7 Resignation**

The pastor may resign by filing a written notice of resignation giving a minimum of ninety (90) days in advance to the Board of Elders. The duties of the departing pastor(s) shall be determined by the Board of Elders.

**Section 8 Dismissal**

The LCCC may dissolve the pastoral relationship when the pastor's teaching and/or practice is contrary to Christian beliefs that are stated in the by-law's Article 3.

1. On the recommendation of the Governing Board, a special congregational meeting shall be called and the purpose of meeting shall be announced at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.
2. The recommendation of the Governing Board shall be voted by members of the LCCC and shall be resolved by three-fourth majority vote at the congregational meeting at which a quorum is present.
3. The dissolution shall be in effect at the end of the next ninety (90) days after the vote.

**ARTICLE 7 BOARD OF ELDERS**

**Section 1 Number**

The Board of Elders shall be consisting of at least three members with additional members being added upon recommendation of the existing Board of Elders and Governing Board. The elders shall serve without compensation. The elders shall be confirmed annually.

**Section 2 Officers**

1. A chairperson, a vice-chairperson and a secretary shall be elected from within the Board of Elders.
2. In case of the absence of a pastor, the chairperson of the Board of Elders shall be the official representative of LCCC.
3. In case of the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson shall assume the duties of the chairperson.
4. The secretary should record the minutes of the Board of Elders meetings.
5. Decisions by the Board of Elders should be based on a three-fourth majority vote by the elders.

**Section 3 Qualification and Election**

1. Qualifications as stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 shall be used as general guidelines.

## **By-laws of Lexington Chinese Christian Church (6.0)**

2. Any member of the LCCC for one year or more and nominated as provided in Article 9 of these by-laws shall be eligible to be elected as an elder.
3. Elders are subject to annual confirmation. In the event of an early departure of an elder, a new elder shall be called to serve the remaining term.
4. Only one elder per family can be confirmed to the Board of Elders unless the availability of a suitable nominee cannot be found and that family is willing to serve, in which case, must be approved by the Governing Board.

### **Section 4 Duties**

1. In case of the absence of a pastor, the chairperson for the Board of Elders shall be the official representative of LCCC. In the absence of the chairperson, the vice chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson.
2. Shall serve with the pastor in overseeing the spiritual ministry of the LCCC.
3. Shall be responsible for reviewing membership requirements and to establish membership list for the LCCC.
4. Shall guide and assist in the functions of the Departments of Devotion, Mission and Christian Education as stated in Article 8.
5. Shall serve the bread and cup during the communion services.
6. Shall help develop leadership skills in the LCCC.
7. Shall be responsible for the pulpit ministry in the absence of a pastor.
8. Shall assist the Pastor with visitation. In the event the position of Pastor is vacant, shall be responsible for organizing a visitation program.
9. Shall be responsible for administration of the emergency fund.
10. Shall have board meeting at least once a month. Additional Board meeting can be called by the chairperson as deemed necessary.
11. Shall make necessary decisions under emergency conditions when Governing Board meeting is not in session.
12. With a unanimous vote, the Board of Elders initiates:
  - a) Calling and/or dismissal of pastor(s)
  - b) Purchase and renovation of church building
  - c) Approval and major changes of annual LCCC budget
  - d) Approval of by-law amendments
  - e) Affiliation, joining or leaving a denomination
  - f) Reallocation of major LCCC funds including pastor fund and building fund.

## **ARTICLE 8 DEACONS/DEACONESSES**

The Deacons/Deaconesses shall serve as the heads of the following four departments: Devotion, Mission Youth and Operation.

### **Section 1 Number**

## By-laws of Lexington Chinese Christian Church (6.0)

Four Deacons/Deaconesses will be elected by the annual congregation meeting. Recommendation for addition or reduction in the number of Deacons/Deaconesses will be determined by the Governing Board as deemed necessary. The Deacons/ Deaconesses shall serve without compensation.

### Section 2 Qualification and Election

1. Qualifications as stated in 1 Timothy 3: 8-12 shall be used as general guidelines.
2. Any member of the LCCC for three (3) months or more and nominated as provided in Article 9 of the by-law's shall be eligible to be elected a deacon/deaconess.
3. Deacons/Deaconesses shall serve a one-year term and are eligible for re-election. In the event of an early departure of a deacon/deaconess, a new deacon/deaconess shall be elected to serve the remaining term.
4. Only one deacon/deaconess per family can be elected to the Board of Deacons/Deaconesses, unless the availability of a suitable nominee cannot be found and that family is willing to serve, in which case, must be approved by the Governing Board.
5. **Term Limit:** After serving as a Deacon/Deaconess for three consecutive years, he/she shall take a minimal one year break from the Governing Board with no voting privilege. The Deacon/Deaconess may be elected to serve after the one year break.

### Section 4 Duties

1. Each deacon/deaconess is responsible for the function of his /her department. He/she may call for other assistants to help carry out specific functions. The general duties of a deacon/deaconess include but not limited to:
  - A). Shall attend the Governing Board meeting
  - B). Shall plan and propose departmental programs
  - C). Shall prepare annual departmental budget. Regular recurring expenses can be spent as defined in the annual budget without additional discussion, unless the Governing Board deems necessary to reevaluate. Expenses not specified in the annual budget shall be presented at the monthly Governing Board meeting and approved by the Governing Board prior to the spending. All unbudgeted expense over \$1,000 for any single item/event shall be approved by the Governing Board prior to the spending. In case of emergency, the Deacon/Deaconess shall seek approval from the majority of the Governing Board via electronic communications.
  - D). Shall prepare annual departmental report and present it at the congregational meeting
2. Department of Devotion:
  - A) Devotion
    - a) Shall promote spiritual interests of the congregation
    - b) Shall assist in music ministry

- c) Shall assist in organizing prayer meeting
- d) Shall assign and oversee personnel for Sunday Worship
- e) Shall be responsible for preparing Sunday Service bulletin
- f) Shall assist in organizing revival meetings and retreats
- g) Shall propose and administer departmental budget
- h) Shall prepare bread and cup for the communion services.
- i) Shall be responsible for all other matters delegated by the Governing Board.

**B). Adult Christian Education**

- a) Shall organize and select materials for adult Sunday school programs
- b) Shall be responsible for recruiting and training Sunday school teachers
- c) Shall be responsible for library administration
- d) Shall be responsible for publication of periodicals and newsletters
- e) Shall be responsible for media ministry
- f) Shall be responsible for organizing workshops
- g) Shall help to propose and administer departmental budget
- h) Shall be responsible for all other matters delegated by the Governing Board.

**3. Department of Mission**

**A). Mission**

- a) Shall examine and establish mission projects
- b) Shall keep congregation informed of the mission projects
- c) Shall correspond with sponsored missionary institutions and individuals
- d) Shall collect and keep pertinent literature of sponsored mission projects
- e) Shall assist in visitation organized by the pastor and/or the elders
- f) Shall assist in the organization of evangelistic activities and retreats and the immediate follow up
- g) Shall collect and keep visitor information and shall correspond with the visitors
- h) Shall assist in the administration of scholarships for seminary students
- i) Shall propose and administer departmental budget
- j) Shall be responsible for all other matters delegated by the Governing Board.

**B). Activity**

- a) Shall organize social and sport activities
- b) Shall coordinate food preparation of love feasts and special festivities
- c) Shall oversee the orderliness of the meeting place before and after the meeting
- d) Shall be responsible for purchasing gifts of items for special occasions such as hospitalization, departure, and funeral
- e) Shall help to propose and administer departmental budget
- f) Shall be responsible for all other matters delegated by the Governing Board.

4. Department of Youth

A). Youth Christian Education

- a) Shall coordinate youth programs and curriculum for middle school and high school students
- b) Shall coordinate youth Sunday Worship (worship leading and teaching)
- c) Shall coordinate Youth Sunday School (teaching God's Word and godly life truths in an interactive fashion).
- d) Shall coordinate extra-curricular activities
- e) Shall acquire Emergency Medical Release Agreement and Leader & Volunteer Waiver from each youth's guardians
- f) Shall minister to the youth and youth's family through love and communication
- g) Shall be responsible for recruiting and training of youth coworkers
- h) Shall propose and administer departmental budget
- i) Shall be responsible for all other matters delegated by the Governing Board.

B). Children Christian Education

- a) Shall organize and select materials for children Sunday school and children Sunday Worship programs
- b) Shall organize the children program for special occasions and events such as Easter, Christmas, evangelistic and other meetings
- c) Shall organize the nursery activities
- d) Shall be responsible for recruiting and training of children teachers
- e) Shall organize the Vacation Bible School (VBS ) during the summer
- f) Shall propose and administer departmental budget
- g) Shall be responsible for all other matters delegated by the Governing Board.

5. Department of Operation:

A). Finance

- a) Shall prepare monthly financial reports and annual financial statement
- b) Shall prepare annual budgetary proposal to the Governing Board.
- c) Shall prepare necessary financial information for the Internal Revenue Service and other tax requirements
- d) Shall sign checks or documents of financial nature
- e) Shall recommend, select and designate bank or trust company as an official depositor for the funds of the LCCC
- f) Shall investigate and recommend investment opportunities to the Governing Board.
- g) Any item over \$10,000.00 must be voted and approved by the congregation before expenditure or purchase
- h.) Shall be responsible for all other matters delegated by the Governing Board.

B). Trustee

- a) Shall collect and deposit regular offerings
- b) Shall assist the Finance Department if the preparation of an annual budgetary proposal to the Board of Elders
- c) Shall purchase necessary supplies
- d) Shall keep inventory and be custodian of all LCCC properties
- e) Shall sign for the LCCC of a financial nature
- f) Shall oversee the finances of the LCCC and request the Board of Elders to make budgetary changes if the budget is no in balance
- g) Shall collect and keep documents in the LCCC files
- h) Shall prepare accommodations for those who decided to be baptized during the baptismal services and oversee the baptistery facilities before and after the baptismal services
- i) Shall be responsible for all other matters delegated by the Governing Board.

**ARTICLE 9 NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

1. Elections will be held at the annual congregational meeting. Special election will be held at any time of the year as deemed necessary.
2. A Nominating Committee shall consist of the Senior Pastor, and four members appointed by the Governing Board. In case the position of a pastor is vacant, the chairperson of the Board of Elders shall be the fifth member of the Nominating Committee.
3. The Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates for officers including elders and Deacons/Deaconesses.
4. The nominations will be posted two weeks before the Election Day.
5. Any member of the congregation may nominate one person per office by submitting the name(s) to the Nominating Committee no later than two weeks prior to being posted (four weeks prior to election). The nomination must be dated and signed by the person making the nomination in order to be valid.
6. The Nominating Committee will review all nominations made by the congregation one week prior to election and submit a final list of nominees to the Governing Board.
7. The ballot will include the names of those nominated by the Nominating Committee and those nominated by congregation at the annual meeting.

8. Ballots will be counted in public immediately at the congregation meeting with the following people serving as tellers: office Manager, a representative for the Board of Elders and a representative from the Governing Board. The results of the election will be posted in the bulletin board.

9. Ballots will be retained in the LCCC files for six (6) months following Election.

## **ARTICLE 10 BY-LAWS**

### **Section 1 Effective Date**

These by-laws shall become effective immediately on their adoption. Amendment to these by-laws shall become effective immediately on their adoption.

### **Section 2 Amendments**

1. The Governing Board shall receive and consider an amendment to the by-laws submitted in writing by a member with a petition signed by one-fifth of the congregation or proposed by a three-fourth majority of the Governing Board.

2. The Governing Board shall present the proposed amendment to the congregation two weeks prior to the next congregational meeting.

3. The acceptance of any amendments shall require a three-fourth majority vote of the members present at the congregational meeting at which a quorum is present.

4. At no time can any amendment contrary to the beliefs and the practice of the LCCC be adopted.

**Summary of Revisions.**

Major modifications proposed in 2006 to the by-law of LCCC:

1. Eliminate the board of coworkers.
2. Identified the Governing Board as the major decision making body for the operation of the church.
3. Consolidate the departments into a total number of 4 departments: Devotion (Adult education), Mission (Activity), Youth (Children and Youth), Operation (Trustee and finance);
4. Most decisions can be made by a vote of majority (>50%). Key decisions specified in the by law require a super majority vote (3/4 or 75%);
5. Amendments of the by-law can be initiated by any member with signatures representing 20% of the membership or by 3/4 of the Governing Board;
6. Pastor is a voting member on the Board of Elders and the Governing Board, except there is a conflict of interest, as judged the Board of Elders.
7. The governing board conducts review and makes the decision to continue or discontinue the term of the pastorate.
8. Voting majority is based on the total number of valid votes collected.

Major modifications proposed in 2011 to the by-law of LCCC:

1. Elders shall be confirmed, not elected, annually.
2. Term Limit for Deacon/Deaconess.
3. Clarification of the voting process.
4. Increase of expenses that need congregation meeting approval. Clarification of expenses that need approval from the Governing Board.
5. With a unanimous vote, the Governing Board reserves the final authority to overturn the decisions of the congregation for the welfare of the church under extreme circumstances.