

Special Congregational Meeting – 11/18/18

11:00am – Board Treasurer, Albert Pucio, called the meeting to order

Quorum Count for Members: More than 35 members present, by show of hands, which constituted a quorum.

Albert read the bylaw changes aloud to be voted upon by the members present, and the details are as follows:

1. 5.2 Special Meetings

“Special Meetings may be called by the President, or in his or her absence, by the acting president. Special Meetings may also be called at the written request of four (4) trustees, or any **fifteen (15) five (5)** voting members.

The business transacted at all Congregational Meetings shall be limited to that specified in the call to meeting.”

The congregation voted and passed this change, with the following votes:

Approved: 37 votes
Opposed: 0 votes
Abstained: 0 votes

2. 5.4 Quorum and Determining Vote

“A quorum of the Congregation for purposes of voting shall consist of thirty percent (30%) of the members eligible to vote in person or by absentee ballot, **except in the case of a meeting called for the purpose of either calling a Minister or dismissing a Minister. In either of these cases, a majority of the eligible Members shall constitute a quorum.**”

The congregation voted and passed this change, with the following votes:

Approved: 42 votes
Opposed: 0 votes
Abstained: 0 votes

3. 11.4 Dismissal/Resignation

“By **2/3 a simple majority** vote at a Special Meeting for that purpose, the members of the congregation may dismiss the Minister. Written notice of such a meeting must be mailed to members three (3) months prior to the meeting.”

Discussion ensued regarding whether the 2/3 majority was based on the total number of members, or only to those who voted (to include both those in attendance and those who had submitted absentee votes). The conclusion was that it applied to those who voted. Consequently, a motion was made from the floor to vote on whether we should amend the provision as noted below in blue:

“By 2/3 a simple majority of the votes cast at a Special Meeting for that purpose, the members of the congregation may dismiss the Minister. Written notice of such a meeting must be mailed to members three (3) months prior to the meeting.”

The decision to amend the proposed bylaw change was voted upon and passed, with the following votes:

Approved: 37 votes
Opposed: 0 votes
Abstained: 1 votes

Finally, the amended change was voted upon and passed, with the following votes:

Approved: 43 votes
Opposed: 0 votes
Abstained: 0 votes

NOTE: It was noted that there may be inconsistencies within the bylaws regarding whether documents sent to members to be voted upon at annual/special meetings must be sent in hardcopy, or may be sent in softcopy by email. The Board took the task to review for consistency, and to present to the congregation any recommended changes at the annual meeting in spring 2019

The Special Meeting concluded.