

# **Comments to the Elders about the Constitution**

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## **A Concerned MBC Member**

The MBC constitution currently required that a physical quorum be obtained during an onsite congregational meeting (as I interpret it). The reason is that there needs to be an adequate representation of the church body that are present to vote, at the same time and place, for the issues at hand. If there is not an adequate percentage of members then the vote cannot go forth. The Bereans, as noble-minded people, exemplified the need for scrutinizing scripture. This is what the current constitution wanted to model. We are the modern-day Bereans! We care deeply about the direction of the church and its mission and question the “watering down” of the church constitution and the *violations* that have already occurred.

This is what I called the “elephant in the room”. Why now? There are two (2) lawsuits against the church leadership. Violations to the church constitution are at the heart of the lawsuits. For the church elders to try to change the constitution now shows their outright unwillingness to work with the membership and, even worse, go around the established membership by adding a host of new questionably vetted members and changing the voting rules to obtain an army of “yes” votes through “hybrid voting” as they have described it. I called it “comfortable responsibility”.

To explain this more fully, I would describe it as members who do not research the proposed changes and are new to the church who like the music and the message and will vote “yes” to anything, simply because they like what they see, not because it is scriptural. There is no current research into biblical truth. They can sit at home on their computer and be courted by the elders who have the current membership list and refuse to extend it to fellow members. We are not allowed to extend our views but they are able to extend their views. I told Chuck Hollingsworth that what they are doing is highly suspicious. This group of longtime members and attendees are the narrow path which is what the church constitution wanted!!! We are the modern-day Bereans that the church wanted as representatives of the congregation to keep the elder board faithful in their calling. Instead of working with us, the elder board is choosing a wider path in order to go around us.

The proposed changes will guarantee that the elder board will always get to do what they want and bypass the congregation. Think about the proposed changes for a moment.

1. “Hybrid voting” is a cornerstone of their proposal. It will just be an unhindered army of “yes” votes where the current constitution wanted members to have a deeper commitment to the issues at hand. There have been few changes to the

**constitution for decades, and the church has flourished because of it. Why now with so much controversy?**

- 2. Majority of vote on the elder board, not unanimity! I have never been at a church where they did not have unanimity of vote on the elder board. Why, because biblical truth is not left up to a vote, it is truth!! If an elder feels that an elder nominee (who was already voted down once) is not allowed to be re-nominated; or for that matter, be qualified to be an elder because of adultery, then you don't nominate him. You choose another person. You cannot decide that because a majority of elders say he is ok and has been forgiven he is allowed to be an elder. He can indeed be forgiven, but that does not mean he is above reproach and qualified (biblically) to be an elder. If any elder has difficulty with this then you nominate another person *which the current constitution requires*. God's law is not a democracy! This is at the heart of one of the lawsuits.**
- 3. Under the proposed constitution, the elder board gets to decide 10 percent of any asset (budget) changes without a vote. These are radical changes and will relinquish the entire direction and independence of this church.**

**These are just a few of the changes. I humbly implore all who read this to become a Berean and scrutinize what the elder board is proposing and why now. Please vote "No" and continue to pray that the appeal in the courts is upheld.**

**Signed,  
Concerned MBC Member**