

MBC's Proposed Constitutional Changes Are Unacceptable

Holistically, these changes are not mere “updates”; they are a complete overhaul of the structure of Mclean Bible Church. Additionally, these highly subjective terms lean heavily in favor of the Board of Elders. So, what’s the end game with these changes? When applied, it consolidates control and power entirely to the Board of Elders.

1. What they’ve attempted to accomplish in spirit, they are solidifying in letter.

- Changes solidify the misdeeds and abuse of MBC’s current governance by removing provisions that are currently being litigated in court. Once these changes are approved and formally adopted, the amended constitution will be recognized by the state.

2. They silence dissidents.

- Do you have an issue with their doctrinal teaching? Do you have an issue w/the organizations to which they partner? Do you believe they’ve violated civil law, or infringed on your rights as members? Do you have any issues with elders being nominated? You. are. silenced.
 - Meetings get to remain online where you are silenced.
 - Disputes remain *confidential* and are required to go through a conciliation/arbitration process which is *determined by the Board of Elders*. You are silenced.
 - The Board of Elders can *dismiss members during the arbitration process*. (Permanently) Silenced.
- How does this work when you need 50% of members to sign a petition for elder/pastor removal? Realistically, it doesn’t since MBC leadership will not publish a list of members to be able to get to the required 50%.

3. Members may be removed by the Board of Elders, at will, if they no longer satisfy the amended constitutional requirements.

- Ironic and hypocritical considering they have been sued for violating the constitution themselves in **two** separate lawsuits.

4. It assumes that affiliation is defined as something *other than* partnership or working collaboratively with other denominations (i.e., the SBC). They’ve provided no evidence that supports this, but they want you to accept it.

- The court has yet to rule on whether or not this meets the definition of affiliation. If it does, you are agreeing to breach of contract in perpetuity.

5. You actually can’t vote down the elders they nominate. This is probably one of the most misleading and egregious changes.

- What actually happens if you vote down the elders? An endless cycle of elder elections every 60 days until the Elder Board is restored to six (6) members. They can simply re-nominate the elders that were previously voted down.

6. **If the church is dissolved, assets go to any religious organization; those of which you have no say in. (See #2, bullet 1).**
7. **You waive your rights to bring disputes before the civil courts as members, even if it qualifies as a matter for the courts under Virginia law.**
 - But they can take you to court to enforce an arbitration decision.

A high standard should be applied with respect to how a church is organized and run, and since no overseer is perfect, other than Christ, these changes are unbiblical and should not be acceptable for any member of any church. Not only should they be voted down, but MBC leadership should be publicly challenged. Do it now, while you still have a voice. Voting closes May 28th.

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to **equip** the saints for the work of **ministry**, for **building up the body of Christ**, until we **all** attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, **to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**, so that we may **no longer be children, tossed to and fro** by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the **truth** in love, we are to grow up in every way into **him who is the head, into Christ**, from whom **the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.** Ephesians 4:12-16*