

WHY VOTE NO???

- **Acceptance of this proposed constitution is an “all or nothing” deal. If a member agrees with parts of the constitution, but does not agree with one or more other parts, they must either accept or reject the entire thing.**
- **The proposed constitution changes the “No Affiliation” clause. This allows the church to enter into collaborative arrangements, projects, or relationships with other churches, ministries, organizations or denominations.**
- **The proposed constitution changes the purpose of the church. Multiplying churches was never the purpose of MBC and it is not scriptural. The current constitution has part of the purpose as: “assembling of ourselves and others together”. This has been removed from the proposed constitution. Please read the rest of this article for other important details.**
- **The proposed constitution removes the “Vote of Confidence” which is the check and balance of the congregation to the Board of Elders. This removes the ability of the congregation to ever remove an elder or the Board of Elders.**
- **The proposed constitution changes the membership Requirements. This fully and subjectively makes membership at MBC “at the pleasure” of the Elders. This *changes* MBC from a congregationally led church to an Elder-led church....with all power taken from the members and given to the elders.**
- **The proposed constitution removes members’ rights by forbidding them to file a lawsuit. Along with removing the voice of the members, now members have no legal recourse when the Elders act against established church requirements, values, or the constitution.**
- **The proposed constitution adds a Preamble that states the Church operates legally as an incorporated association under Virginia law. The current constitution does not have a preamble. Yet...members waive their rights to file a lawsuit under Virginia law. (how does that work???)**

- **Article IV, Section 1.** “Elders may interpret or clarify provisions set forth in the Statement of Faith and Doctrine”. This clause is not in the current constitution.
- **Article IV, Section 5.** The clause “any attempt to change one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biological sex is sinful and offensive to God” has been removed from Article IV of the current constitution. This portion of the current Constitution was amended in 2014; not sure why it needed a 2023 rewrite.
- **Article VI, Section 1b.** This clause states “The Board of Elders shall consist of the elders currently in office, including the Lead Pastor(s). This change makes reference to Lead Pastor(s) (note the plural). This leads us to Article VI, Section 2 which states “One or more Lead Pastors may be elected only by Church membership in accordance with this section.” The current constitution allows for a minimum of six elders, plus the pastor-teacher. Additionally, Associate pastoral staff members may comprise up to 1/3 of the Board of Elders. Under the proposed constitution, we may have any number of *Lead Pastors*.
- **Article VI, Section 1c.** Changes the term in office of an Elder. The proposed constitution, states the term in office of an elder shall *generally* be three (3) years. This gives the elder Board the flexibility to extend terms of Elders.
- **Article VI, Section 5.** “Church employees serve at the will of the Church and may be separated from employment with or without cause or notice.” This clause is not in the current constitution.
- **Article VI, Section 5c.** This article states that the Secretary shall be an Elder. The current constitution does not require that the Secretary be an Elder.
- **The Proposed constitution changes the process for Dissolution of the Church and distribution of any proceeds.** The proposed constitution completely changes who gets the proceeds if the church is dissolved. Because the current Leadership has removed support of missionaries, whomever receives proceeds will now be determined by the Board of Elders instead of how it is currently explicitly spelled out in the current constitution.

- **In the current constitution, the Pastor-Teacher is required to give “at least sixty (60) days” notice. The propose constitution eliminates the requirement.**
- **In the current constitution, church staff are automatically voting members. The new constitution says nothing about church staff and membership.**
- **The current constitution requires there be a “nominating committee” for church elders. The proposed constitution removed the wording requiring a nominating committee. Once again, the proposed constitution removes the rights and the responsibilities for the members to be involved in governing and ensuring proper running of the church. It puts all power with the Elders.**
- **The proposed changes will guarantee that the elder board will always get to do what they want and bypass the congregation.**