



Polity Documents Update

Presented October 2019

Church Polity Documents - Overview

- ▶ CrossLife Community Church currently has four polity documents:
 - ▶ Statement of Faith (nearly congruent with the C&MA model)
 - ▶ Members Covenant (developed internally)
 - ▶ Constitution (nearly verbatim with the C&MA model)
 - ▶ Bylaws (developed internally)
- ▶ All underwent extensive review and changes last fall-winter, with help from many of you!
- ▶ At our Annual Meeting in February we ratified all four of these documents
- ▶ Since then, we've been reviewing and awaiting formal approval with the C&MA District Superintendent and his team - and some edits were required

CrossLife Statement of Faith

- ▶ The document we called “CrossLife Statement of Faith” has now been renamed to “CrossLife Affirmation of Biblical Beliefs” to allow freedom of wording without being tethered to the original
- ▶ We also simplified and clarified the statement about sanctification
 - ▶ from this: *“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...”*
 - ▶ to this: *“Each believer is filled with the Holy Spirit and is sanctified, being separated from sin and the world, and having received power for holy living and effective service. It is the will of God that each believer grow in maturity and faith...”*

CrossLife Members Covenant

- ▶ No changes were made to the Members Covenant

CrossLife Constitution

- ▶ The DS informed us that the CrossLife Constitution cannot differ at all from the C&MA model Constitution
- ▶ So a change/omission we attempted to embed in February had to be undone
- ▶ In Article X (“Committees and Organizations”), we’ve now changed:
 - ▶ from this: *“All officers, committees, and organizations are amenable to the collective oversight of the elders (the Governance Authority).”*
 - ▶ to this: *“All officers, committees, and organizations **except the Nominating Committee** are amenable to the collective oversight of the elders **through** the Governance Authority.”*
- ▶ What is the Nominating Committee?
 - ▶ A committee whose sole purpose is to submit one or more candidate names for the administrative offices of the church (Treasurer, Secretary, etc.) when appropriate
 - ▶ Its existence doesn’t preclude or prevent others from submitting names also
 - ▶ The committee only exists temporarily, just prior and leading up to church elections

CrossLife Bylaws

- ▶ The Bylaws were extensively reviewed (and complimented!) and edited
- ▶ Following is a summary of the more substantive changes:
 - ▶ References to the Statement of Faith throughout now mention “Affirmation of Biblical Beliefs” instead
 - ▶ The need for a congregational vote to admit new members was removed
 - ▶ Now new member candidate are presented and “received” by the congregation, after an opportunity to solicit feedback from current members
 - ▶ “Regular” members meeting now referred to as “Annual” meeting
 - ▶ Article 2, Sections 5 & 6 on “Church Discipline” and “Dismissal” tighten up the language and refer to the C&MA’s *Uniform Policy on Discipline, Restoration and Appeal*
 - ▶ Minimum number of elders now increased from three to five
 - ▶ This statement added to Article 4, Section 2 on “Number of Elders”: *“If the number of elders drops below the required minimum of five, the remaining elders shall actively identify and train future elder candidates to fulfill the requirement within a reasonable timeframe.”*
 - ▶ Pray with us for our future elders!

CrossLife Bylaws (continued)

- ▶ A summary of the more substantive changes, continued:
 - ▶ The official titles of “Secretary” and “Treasurer” must be held by elders, though the responsibilities may be delegated
 - ▶ New administrative & legal officer position of Assistant Treasurer introduced
 - ▶ Treasurer focuses on expenses and finances as a whole
 - ▶ Assistant Treasurer general emphasis is on income and receipts
 - ▶ Note the Assistant Treasurer role need not be an elder
 - ▶ All references to “Employed Elders” throughout were changed to “Pastoral Staff”
 - ▶ Quorum for elder meetings changed from two-thirds to three-fifths
 - ▶ Procedure for removal of elders (especially pastoral staff) now changed to reflect the District Superintendent’s involvement
 - ▶ The indemnification “Permissive” clause (Article 7, Section 2) now explicitly mentions “any member” rather than “any person”

What Happens Next?

- ▶ We will call for a final vote of our four documents on a special church meeting to be held in November (likely Sunday, 17 November)
 - ▶ Our District Superintendent will be present then, to both commission CrossLife as a fully “accredited” church within the C&MA denomination and to receive all who expressed interest in membership as its charter members
- ▶ Between now and then, we warmly welcome your comments on any of these four documents
 - ▶ Soft-copy PDFs can be distributed via email for review
 - ▶ This presentation will also be made available if desired
- ▶ Any questions or concerns along the way, let us know
- ▶ We are in this together, CrossLife family!

Q&A