

To MBC Congregation:

Last year the MBC Vision Task Force submitted 23 recommendations for church action which are in varying stages of implementation by the CLC, church councils and the ministerial staff. To address the recommendation to "explore ways to improve church governance," the CLC is proposing the following terms of reference for a special Church Governance Review Committee. At the March 13 quarterly business meeting, the CLC plans to present, for congregational action, the terms of reference for the committee's work and proposed committee membership.

As background, for this governance proposal, the VTF recommendation is as follows:

"The backbone of the church is our strong lay leadership. Yet, the feedback from the church reflected feelings of communication gaps throughout the church's organizational structure, as well as a general sense that it is difficult to 'get things done' at the church. A Special Governance Committee should examine whether there are too many councils and committees for a church our size, whether the nominating process is too cumbersome, and whether there are ways to foster communication and initiative by streamlining our church governance."

Please review the following draft terms of reference and, if you have comments, provide those to me, any of the ministerial staff, or a CLC member. Likewise we welcome your suggestions for possible members of the committee.

The CLC will finalize the terms of reference and proposed committee membership at its February 28 meeting. These will then be submitted for church action on March 13.

Proposed Terms of Reference for MBC Church Governance Review Committee

To address MBC's Vision Task Force recommendation #22 concerning church governance, the CLC proposed creation of a special committee to review the church's governance structure and processes. The Church Governance Review Committee (CGRC) will evaluate the effectiveness of our structure and processes to include the nominating procedures, staff-CLC-Deacon-congregation interaction and corporate decision making. Based on its research and evaluation, the Committee will develop recommendations for church consideration.

An eight-person Church Governance Review Committee will be composed of five MBC members reflective of diverse elements of the church body, a member of the Deacons, a member of the CLC and the Senior Pastor as ex-officio. The Congregation is invited to propose committee members to the ministerial staff or any member of the CLC or send names to CLC Chairman Bob Wallace at bobwq@yahoo.com. The CLC will consider these names and submit the proposed committee members to the congregation for approval.

CGRC members will select their chair, organize their work and may, as needed, use consultants, create subcommittees, or form task teams. The CGRC will seek to determine perspectives and concerns of all elements of the congregation regarding the effectiveness of the current processes, clarity of roles and missions, decision making, and ease of participation in MBC activities. The committee is encouraged to research governance models in other churches, particularly other moderate Baptist churches.

A preliminary report from the CGRC will be expected by October 15, 2016 and a final report for church leadership review by February 15, 2017. This schedule would enable congregational consideration of major recommendations in 2017.

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