

# The Constitution

of Priory Park Baptist Church

## Proposal 4: General Cleanup

**CONGREGATION REVISION 1**

February 14, 2026



Priory Park Baptist Church  
8 Torch Lane  
Guelph, ON N1G 1V6  
Canada

## Elders' Explanation of the Proposal

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In this proposal we lumped together a variety of small changes to add clarity to the document and some efficiencies in other areas.

### Document Structure

- ▶ Sections 1-4 were reorganized as subsections of a new major section called "Church Identity". Thus, Section 5: Membership is now Section 2: Membership.
- ▶ Renamed section 4.1.1 (formerly 7.1.1) Senior Pastor to be 4.1.1 Staff. This is to keep it in line with the actual content of the section which covers several staff position and not just the Lead Pastor.

### Minor Edits Throughout to Improve Clarity

- ▶ Section numbers have changed in accordance with the above change in document structure.
- ▶ Changed "Senior Pastor" to "Lead Pastor".
- ▶ Changed references to members to "Active Members" (assuming Proposal #1 is accepted).
- ▶ Removed references to the Clerk (assuming Proposal #2 is accepted).
- ▶ Changed any reference to "business meetings" or "congregational meetings" to a single term: "Congregational Business Meetings".
- ▶ Changed any reference to our annual meeting to a single term: "Annual Meeting".
- ▶ Other minor wording changes.

### Selecting Assembly Delegates

The Constitution currently states that the congregation must vote on delegates to CBOQ Assembly and SCABC meetings. This is not only impractical, but it is unnecessary. The Assembly registration deadline is mid May, which is before our Annual Meeting. We cannot be waiting until our Annual Meeting to select delegates after the registration deadline. Furthermore, SCABC meetings happen throughout the year, and it is enormously inconvenient to have to convene a congregational meeting to select delegates for those meetings. Furthermore, even if practicality was not an issue, it still seems wholly unnecessary to put this kind of procedural decision in the hands of the whole church body. We think the congregation will be very happy to trust the Elders to make these selections, as they are the ones who have deep knowledge of the qualifications as well as the potential candidates that exist within our church for such delegates.

### Cleaned up Section 3.2 (formerly 6.2) Annual Meeting

- ▶ Changed "Appointment of officers" to "Ratification of officers" to reflect the language in Section 4.4 Church Officers.
- ▶ Removed the redundant "Appointment of trustees" as trustees are officers.
- ▶ Removed "Appointment of delegates to CBOQ Convention" according to the above proposal.
- ▶ Removed the redundant "Amendments to governing documents." Section 5.5 Amendments already permits Constitutional amendments during any Congregational Business Meeting, not just Annual meeting.

### Cleaned up Section 4.1.1 (formerly 7.1.1) Lead Pastor

- ▶ Exposition of the Latin root of the English word "pastor" is not an ideal starting point for pastoral theology. Any basis for the role should come from Scripture and not analysis the English language.
- ▶ The voting status of the Lead Pastor has been moved to 4.2.1 (formerly 7.2.1) Board Structure. This will improve clarity since it allows the rules of their status on the board to be fully contained in one section.

# Proposed Constitutional Amendments Follow

The following are the proposed revisions to the Constitution under this proposal. To view all the revisions from all the proposals in one document, see the document labeled "Complete Amended Constitution from Proposals #1-4".

- ▶ All major headings have been kept for context. If there is no text under a heading, that means there are no proposed changes for that section.
- ▶ Text in **BLACK** is exactly as it is in the current Constitution.
- ▶ Text in **RED** are the proposed amendments.
- ▶ Text in **BLUE** are section numbers that will be changed due to the proposals.
- ▶ **RED & BLUE TEXT WITH NO STRIKE THROUGH** is new text that is proposed to be **added**.
- ▶ **RED & BLUE TEXT WITH A STRIKE THROUGH** is current text that is proposed to be **deleted**.

## 1 Church Identity

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### 1.1 Name

### 2.1.2 Affiliation

In carrying out the wider ministry for which Christ has made His church responsible, Priory Park Baptist Church shall be a member of the South Central Association of Baptist Churches (SCABC) and the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec (CBOQ). This affiliation shall be voluntary, based upon a covenant relationship among likeminded congregations which remain legally autonomous while interdependent in mission.

### 3.1.3 Purpose

### 4.1.4 Statement of Faith

## 5.2 Membership

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## 6.3 Congregational Meetings

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### 6.13.1 Sunday Services

### 6.23.2 Annual Meeting

~~An annual meeting~~ **is a Congregational Business Meeting that** shall be held each year within sixty days of the fiscal year end for the purpose of enacting the following business:

- a) Approval of annual reports
- b) Approval of financial reports

- c) Approval of budget
- d) Dedication of church leadership
- e) Appointment Ratification of officers
- ~~f) Appointment of trustees~~
- ~~g) Appointment of delegates to CBOQ Convention~~
- ~~h) Amendments to governing documents~~
- ~~i) f) Covenant renewal~~

Approvals and ratifications shall be done through a vote of the members of the church.

### 6.33.3 Special Meetings

Special eCongregational Business  ~~Meetings~~ may be called at the request of any committee or ministry team, after consultation with the Board of Elders, or by written request to the Elders by five  ~~church-Active~~  Members.

### 6.43.4 Quorum

Notice of eCongregational Business  ~~Meetings~~ shall be given at least two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting. The quorum shall consist of one-third of Active  ~~Members~~ at the time of meeting. Items requiring urgent attention may be dealt with at specially called meetings without two weeks' prior notice. Such meetings must have 50% of the Active  ~~Membership~~ present.

### 6.53.5 Decision Making

When making decisions, the body shall seek to reach biblical unity as illustrated in Acts 4:32 and 1 Corinthians 1:10. In order to do so, the body shall, individually and collectively, all humbly seek God's will for the church through prayer and the study of His Word. Members shall have the opportunity before and at eCongregational Business  ~~Meetings~~ to express any concerns about decisions brought before the body. After discussion and vote, it is the responsibility of the Elders to weigh all expressed opinions to determine the substantial agreement on the part of the congregation. For the sake of relational harmony and ministry progress, members are asked to work together in a spirit of Christian unity.

### 6.63.6 Proxy Votes

Because of the importance of bilateral discussion in decision making, proxy voting shall not be permitted.

## 74 Governance

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### 7.14.1 ~~Senior Pastor~~ Staff

#### 7.1.14.1.1 ~~Senior Pastor~~ Lead Pastor Responsibilities

The ~~Latin noun "pastor" is derived from the verb pascere – "to lead to pasture, set to grazing, cause to eat."~~ Accordingly, the ~~Senior Pastor~~ Lead Pastor has overall responsibility for the spiritual nourishment and care of the church body. The ~~Senior Pastor~~ Lead Pastor is expected to have a thorough knowledge of the Word of God, and to be able to build up the members of the church through teaching, preaching and pastoral visitation. The ~~Senior Pastor~~ Lead Pastor lives as a follower of Jesus Christ in actions, attitudes and behaviours, recognizing a daily need for Christ's grace and forgiveness, both personally and in the lives of others. The ~~Senior Pastor~~ Lead Pastor honours the high calling to Christian ministry and servant leadership, and endeavours to lead a godly and exemplary life. ~~The Senior Pastor is a non-voting member of the Board of Elders.~~ The ~~Senior Pastor~~ Lead Pastor shall be accountable to the congregation through the Elders Board.

#### 7.1.24.1.2 Senior Pastor Selection

#### 7.1.34.1.3 Additional Pastoral Staff

#### 7.1.44.1.4 Termination of Pastoral Staff

Should the Elders' Board deem it necessary to terminate a pastoral staff member's employment, it shall present this decision to the congregation for ratification at a ~~e~~Congregational ~~b~~Business ~~m~~Meeting ~~called for the purpose~~.

#### 7.1.54.1.5 Non-Pastoral Staff

As the Elders' Board deems that a non-pastoral staff member is necessary, it shall develop, or cause to be developed, a job description and budget for the new position and present them to the congregation for ratification at a ~~e~~Congregational ~~b~~Business ~~m~~Meeting. Upon ratification, the Elders' Board or its designated body shall solicit applicants and hire a qualified individual.

### 7.24.2 Board of Elders

#### 7.2.14.2.1 Board Structure

The Board of Elders shall consist of four to seven persons, one of whom shall be the ~~Senior Pastor~~Lead Pastor. ~~The Lead Pastor will be a non-voting member of the board.~~ Elders, ~~(excluding the Lead Pastors)~~, are asked for a two year commitment to their position with yearly review and dedication. Elders may serve up to three consecutive terms but must step down for at least one year before seeking a fourth term. The Board of Elders shall be accountable to the congregation.

#### 7.2.24.2.2 Board Responsibilities

#### 7.2.34.2.3 Appointment of Elders

At such time as new Elders are required to fill vacancies on the Board, existing Elders shall appoint a nominating committee of at least three ~~Active~~ ~~m~~Members. The committee shall meet with the Elders to review qualifications for Elders. It shall then call a thirty day submission period during which the congregation may submit the names of candidates for the position. The nominating committee shall review these names and recommend a short list to the Elders. To be considered for the role of Elder, an individual must meet scriptural qualifications and be an ~~n~~ ~~Active~~ ~~m~~Member of Priory Park Baptist Church. Those whose names are submitted shall be so informed, and they shall be urged to engage in self-appraisal and personal evaluation in light of the scriptural qualifications for Eldership. Any person may withdraw his or her name at this point. After interviewing the candidates, the Elders shall make a final selection and present it to the congregation who shall be given thirty days to show cause why any one of the prospective Elders would not be qualified to serve. At the end of the thirty days, the prospective Elders shall be presented to the church for dedication. When, at any point during the selection process, a candidate is removed from the process, he or she shall be informed as to the reason by the nominating committee.

#### 7.2.44.2.4 Board Review

During an annual review, the Elders shall be asked to evaluate themselves and each other for future service, considering both biblical qualifications and personal factors that may affect their

service as an Elder. A person's service as an Elder may be terminated by their own decision or by the unanimous vote of the other Elders. This process shall take place prior to the ~~a~~Annual congregational ~~m~~Meeting. Those Elders renewing their commitment shall present themselves to the congregation for dedication.

### 7.3.4.3 Ministry Teams

#### 7.3.14.3.1 Role of Ministry Teams

#### 7.3.24.3.2 Responsibilities of Ministry Team Leaders

Ministry Team Leaders shall have the authority and responsibility to perform activities within their defined mandates. Ministry Team Leaders shall be responsible to the Elders' Board, and to the congregation through annual reports which must be submitted as part of the church's annual report, and by dedication at the ~~a~~Annual ~~m~~Meeting.

#### 7.3.34.3.3 Appointment of Ministry Team Leaders

Ministry Team Leaders shall be identified and nominated by the Elders' Board, or a designated committee. To be considered for the role of Ministry Team Leader, an individual must meet scriptural qualifications for leadership and be an ~~n~~ Active ~~m~~Member of Priory Park Baptist Church.

### 7.44.4 Church Officers

## 85 General Regulations

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### 8.15.1 ~~Church~~ Fiscal Year

The church ~~fiscal~~ year, ~~organizationally and fiscally~~, shall run from May 1 to April 30th.

### 8.25.2 Policies and Procedures

#### 8.2.15.2.1 Policies

When policies are written, and approved by the Elders, they shall immediately become the operating policy of the church. All policies shall be included in what is identified as the Policies and Procedures Manual and shall be accessible to all church members on proper notice. Major changes in policy shall be communicated to the membership at the ~~annual meeting~~a Congregational Business Meeting.

#### 8.2.25.2.2 Procedures

Procedures may be written documents or generally understood operating procedures. Should they be written, they should be kept on file and accessible to all church members on proper notice. All procedures shall be included in what is identified as the Policies and Procedures Manual. However, since they may be construed to be generally understood operating procedures, should a question or dispute arise concerning a directive that cannot be resolved, the Elders shall be responsible for clarifying the procedure and preparing a notice to be communicated to the church at ~~the annual meeting~~ a Congregational Business Meeting.

### 8.35.3 Dissolution

### 8.45.4 Delegates

Delegates to ~~meetings where the church is to be represented such as~~ CBOQ ~~convention~~ ~~a~~Assemblies and SCABC (South Central Association of Baptists Churches) meetings shall be appointed by the ~~Board of Elders~~ congregation at the annual meeting. The expenses of such delegates shall be paid from congregational funds.

### 8.55.5 Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any regular ~~c~~Congregational ~~b~~Business ~~m~~Meeting provided that notice of motion to amend is given at a previous ~~c~~Congregational ~~b~~Business ~~m~~Meeting, or that notice of the motion to amend, and the proposed amendment are publicly announced and distributed ~~by the Clerk~~ at least one month in advance of the business meeting which will deal with the proposal.