

Updates to The Discipline

Pastors

Hiring a Pastor (705) - There is no longer an initial call for a senior pastor. When the LCC votes on a new senior pastor, a “yes” vote will place that pastor on an extended call.

Extended Call (741) - All senior pastors will move to an extended call at their next LCC vote. A “yes” vote places the pastor on an extended call. A “no” vote removes the pastor from the pastoral charge of that local congregation.

The extended call of a pastor is reviewed not less than every 4 years. The District Superintendent will work with the LBA to conduct a review of the pastor. The DS and LBA together will determine if the call of the pastor should be extended for an additional 4 years or if a vote by the LCC on the extended call of the pastor is beneficial.

Alternative options for a pastoral call can be discussed with the DS and DBA.

Associate Pastor - There is no longer a category called “Associate Pastor.” Current associate pastors will be moved to the Assistant Pastor category. Assistant Pastors are hired by the LBA at the recommendation of the senior pastor.

LBA – Local Board of Administration

Budget (782:28)– the LBA is authorized to create the annual church budget. This budget is presented to the LCC as finalized. All budget adjustments and decisions are the responsibility of the LBA.

Nominating Committee (782:20; 820) – the LBA elects the members of the nominating committee (see below)

Board of Trustees (782:25, 26; 850) – the LBA serves as the board of trustees or can elect from its own membership a board of trustees. The trustees are legal representatives of the church. This board of trustees does not replace a facility/maintenance team.

Sessions (760) – Recommended to have quarterly sessions and annual reviews

Auditing Report (863) The LBA should record in its minutes that it has received and reviewed the annual auditing committee’s report.

Nominating Committee (820)

The nominating committee is elected by the LBA. Two members of the nominating committee are to be LBA members and at least two additional members of the nominating committee are to be elected by the LBA. The nominating committee presents names to the LCC for:

- LBA Members
- Church Secretary

- Delegates to District Conference
- Church Treasurer (unless the LCC previously authorized the LBA to secure the church treasurer)

LCC – Local Church Conference (655:3)

The LCC elects the members of the LBA, delegates to district conference, local church secretary and treasurer (unless authority for treasurer was given to the LBA).

The LCC votes on the initial extended call of a pastor and renewal of call if required.

The LCC may vote on additional committees created by the local church but no longer required by *The Discipline*.

Church Officers/Organization (810)

The required positions for an established church are LBA/Board of Trustees, local church secretary, church treasurer, offering teller (845:3), and auditing committee. Any additional leadership positions and committees are at the discretion of the local church and not required by *The Discipline*.

Established Church/Developing Church Membership Requirements (518:7)

An established church may be reclassified as a developing church if they have 30 or fewer members.

Developing Church USF Exemption (2005:4)

A developing church can request a USF exemption of \$50,000. The DBA must review and approve these requests. This exemption must be reviewed and requested annually.