

In order for the members of TJMC-UU to better understand some of the proposed changes to the church Bylaws, the Board submits the following clarifications:

- A. Many of the changes reflect the re-numbering needed to organize the content of various articles, after the needed additions and deletions.
- B. Reference to article numbers has been corrected to match the new re-numbering.
- C. Article I.5 -- The name of the Thomas Jefferson District was changed to the Southeast District by formal action at last spring's Annual District Meeting.
- D. Article III.3 – The Personnel/Staffing Year is now aligned to match the Administrative and Fiscal calendar years.
- E. Articles IV.3, IX.4.2.2, XII.3, and XII.6 – New wording provides for the use of electronic communication in addition to postal service notification for church announcements and business. (Currently, only 16-18 individuals still request mailed notification. All others use electronic communication.)
- F. Article V.3 – TJMC does not identify “standing” committees at this time. However, TJMC does charge “special task forces” on occasion.
- G. Article V.8 – The Board of Trustees wants transparency and is open to hearing from our membership at monthly meetings.
- H. Article VI.6 – The Past-President sits as an elected officer of the church. Thus, the position should be listed as such.
- I. Article VII – Since the Past-President is now accurately listed as one of the Officers of the Church, that position does not need special mention as a member of the Executive Committee.
- J. Article VIII. 1-4 – Since our current governance structure is based on “council structure,” further clarification of the Church Councils is needed.
- K. Article IX.1&2 – TJMC councils are composed of both “committees” and “groups.” Clarification of the terms and responsibilities is needed.
- L. Article IX.4 – This section identifies “Elected Committees.” Since the Endowment Committee is a “Board Appointed/Approved Committee” and is not elected, that section has been moved (without changes) to Article X.1.
- M. Article X.2 – This new Bylaw was added because the Finance Committee is not described elsewhere in this document. Clarification of this Committee is needed because the Finance Committee is deeply engaged in the operations and monetary decisions of the Church.
- N. Article X.2.3 -- This is the first time limits have been established for Finance Committee membership...
  - 1. The Board believes that term limits are needed in order to provide opportunities for new members to become part of the team.
  - 2. A few current and past Finance Committee members have raised concern about setting term limits for this committee. The fear is that “historic memory” will be lost.
  - 3. Once fully in place the terms defined here would allow a person to sit on this committee for up to twelve years, with one year off between the sixth and seventh years and therefore providing for more than adequate on-going historical perspective.
  - 4. The challenge relates to the transition period. The Finance Committee with the full support of the Board will be working with current members on a rotation system to ensure we maintain the benefit of longevity and “history” while at the same time providing opportunities for others to serve.
  - 5. In addition to the above process, the Finance Committee minutes will provide the history of finance-related decisions and discussions.

Respectfully,  
Jean Shepard, VP