



## **Prairie Hill Evangelical Free Church**

### **Notice of Business Meetings and Proposed Bylaw Change**

February 12, 2021

A business meeting of the members of Prairie Hill Evangelical Free Church will be held immediately following the Sunday morning service on February 28, 2021 for the purpose of approving a bylaw change to allow absentee voting and to provide a Q&A forum with the prospective Senior Pastor candidate.

A business meeting of the members of Prairie Hill Evangelical Free Church will be held immediately following the Sunday morning service on March 7, 2021 for the purpose of extending a call to a Senior Pastor.

The following verbiage is the proposed change to the bylaws that we will be asking membership to approve on February 28, 2021 and will be placed in Article II after A. Membership and B. Elders.

#### **C. Absentee Voting at Business Meetings**

1. Absentee ballots will be available for church members from the Church Office as a hardcopy or in digital form a minimum of one (1) Sunday prior to the meeting in which a vote will be taken.
2. Absentee voting is restricted to extending a call to a Senior Pastor, electing officials, adopting an annual budget, and other items given the approval of the Elders.
3. Absentee ballots must be completed according to the instructions provided, and must be returned to the Church Office or the Elder Chair before the business meeting begins.
4. If a proposal is amended at the business meeting, all absentee votes for that proposal are nullified, but votes for other proposals that are not amended are still considered valid and accepted.

#### **Commentary**

1. Regarding the annual business meeting held on Sunday February 7, 2021:

The notification of the business meeting, the elders to be voted upon and the budget to be approved, the subsequent approval at the meeting of the 2021 annual budget and the slate of elders all complied with the bylaws. However, we could have done a better job of announcing the meeting and communicating the budget and the slate of elders. How it was done departed from some past practices and could easily lead members to the belief that the process was not

compliant with the bylaws and, quite simply, the communication was confusing. We apologize for what happened, ask for grace and vow to do better as we move forward.

2. Regarding the proposed bylaw change for absentee voting:

If there are questions regarding the proposed bylaw change please reach out directly to any elder, preferably prior to the business meeting. The actual instructions for absentee voting will be provided at the time the ballots are made available.

**Elder Contact Information**

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In Christ,

The Elders