

The Charlotte Church of Christ is part of the movement best known as the Restoration Movement, which continually attempted to look at the Scriptures as their guide. The movement got its name by the fact that we are trying to “restore” and “be” the Church of the New Testament.

In researching for the Biblically process of choosing Elders and other leaders within the church we, the steering committee, believe it must be admitted that the Scriptures do not concretely set forth a precise method for choosing and ordaining Elders. Lacking a Biblical process, we have searched many resources and have come to the following conclusions:

1. Congregational election can become a mere popularity vote rather than a selection based on Biblical criteria.
2. Choosing by the existing leadership can become a good-o'-boys club.
3. Selection by the preacher may possess the flaw of having less knowledge of the true character of those being considered, as most preacher are much newer to the congregation than most other members.
4. We value the input of the congregation, the existing leadership, and the preacher.
5. Leadership should consist of a minimum of three leaders. While we seek to achieve unity in all decisions, we believe that there is less conflicts in matters of judgment when three qualified leaders seek to find the best decision.

So we looked at the existing constitution and bylaws and through much prayer and research we would like to suggest the following summary of changes to our current constitution and bylaws:

1. Remove the election of the leadership, elders and deacons or a steering committee.
2. Include a process of leadership selection that:
  - a. Includes the nomination of individuals from all members, congregation, preacher, and current leadership.
  - b. Provides the means for congregational feedback, nominee self-evaluation, and leadership examination of the nominee.
  - c. Produce qualified leaders.
  - d. Allows for encouragement and growth opportunities on nominees that are not ready to serve.
3. Removes the duration of leadership (elders, deacons, steering committee, and evangelist) being based upon time and allow the qualified leader to serve as long as God gives them the desire to lead.
4. Remove the termination of the evangelist by a congregational vote and giving the elders the authority to terminate the evangelist as part of their role to “watch the flock”.

You can look at the exact wording of these changes by looking at both the crossed out words and the added words have been highlighted in yellow.

If you have any question please contact one of the steering committee.  
Steering Committee, October 14, 2010